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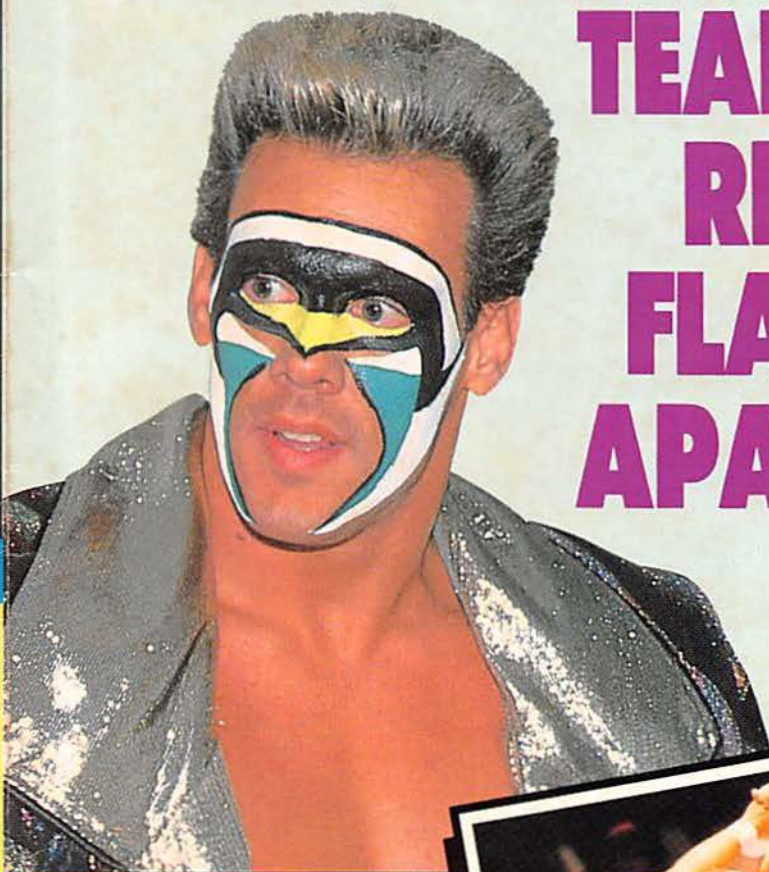
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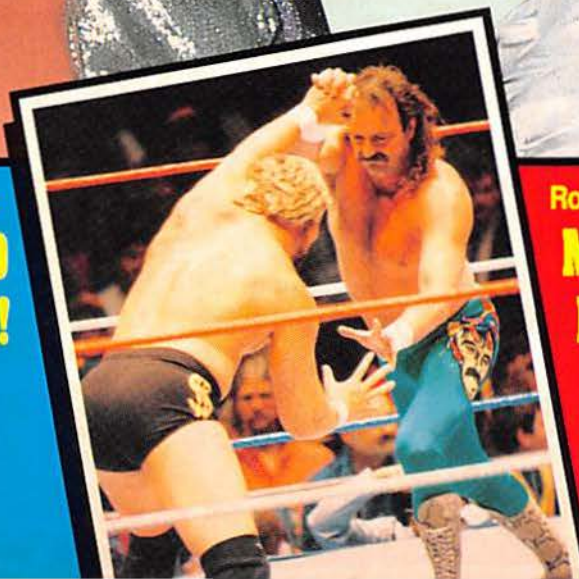
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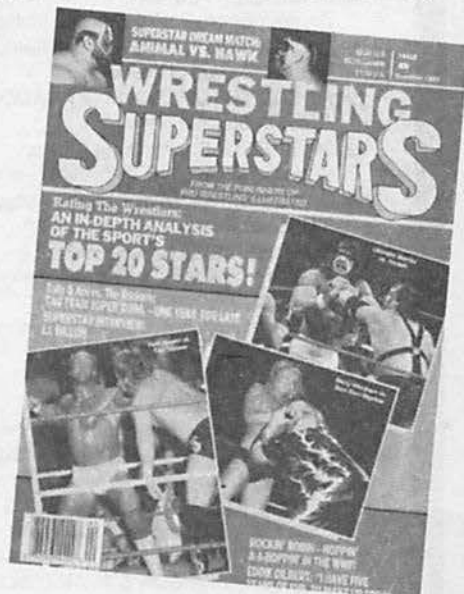
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Wrestling

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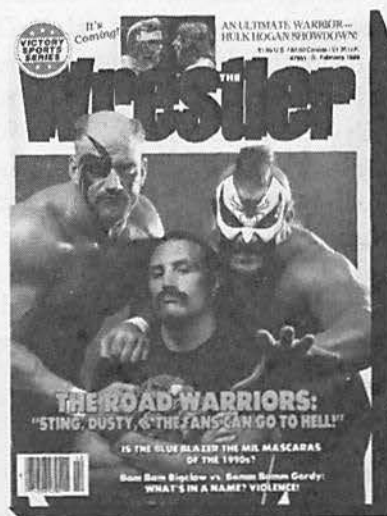
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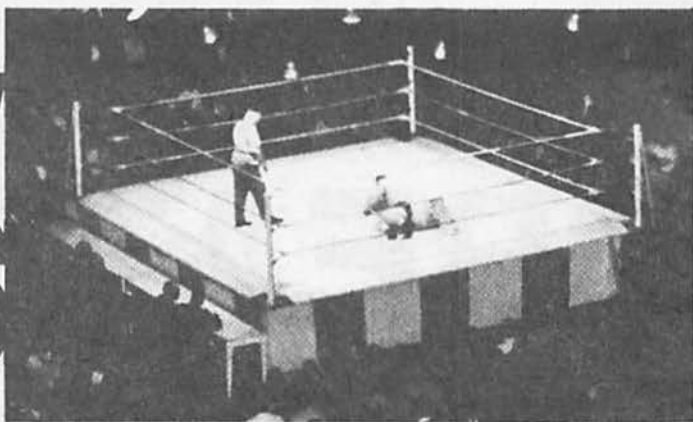
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ZBYSZKO RIPOFF ...

Recently, on a televised card, Sgt. Slaughter met Larry Zbyszko for the AWA World title. It was a great, action-packed match that anybody could appreciate.

But Sgt. Slaughter was robbed! He had things going his way and set Zbyszko up for the "Slaughter cannon." Instead of hitting Zbyszko, he accidentally hit referee Gary DeRusha. While DeRusha was unconscious, referee Tom Burton came out and declared that Zbyszko had submitted to the cobra clutch. DeRusha then awoke and disqualified Slaughter for hitting him.



Sgt. Slaughter hammerlocks Larry Zbyszko. Zbyszko is a lousy champion, in reader Brian Werth's opinion.

After viewing the tape, AWA President Joe Blanchard declared that Zbyszko was still the champion.

Zbyszko, you had better watch out. Next time, Slaughter will put you out and get the title!

BRIAN WERTH
Neenah, WI

... AND ZBYSZKO JINX

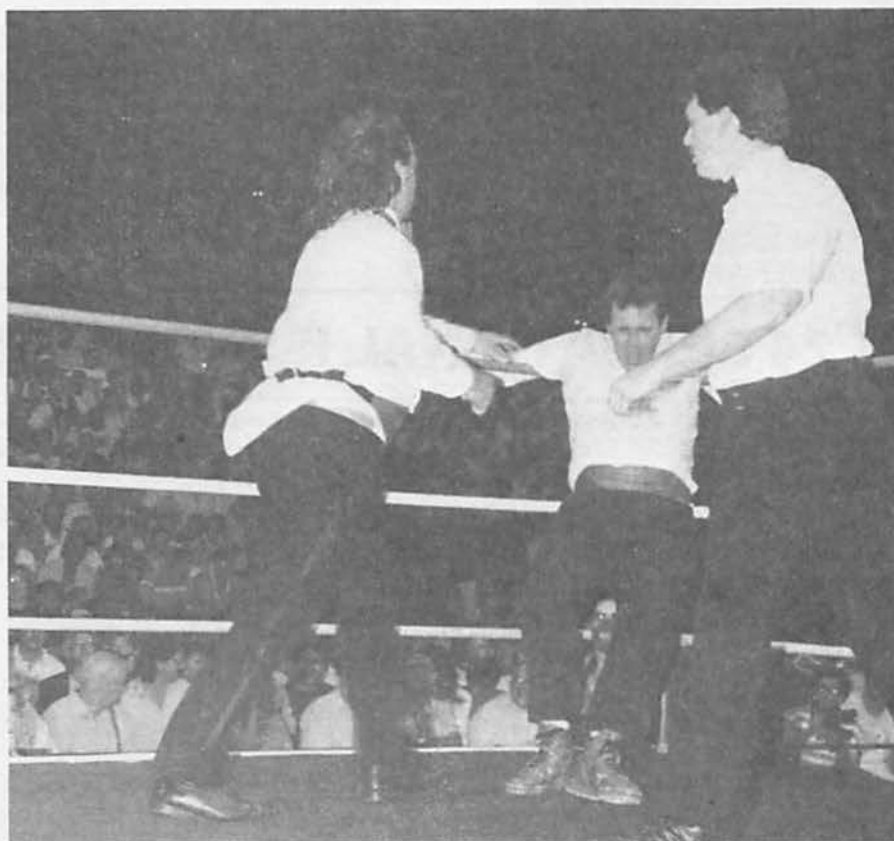
In the October 1989 issue of *Inside Wrestling*, David Rosenbaum posed the following question: "Hasn't the AWA championship already lost world title status in the minds of many wrestling fans and experts?" ("Behind The Dressing Room Door"). That question led me to the following observation: The current AWA champion, Larry Zbyszko, has a history of holding titles that subsequently became obsolete.

Several years ago, he purchased the now-defunct Georgia National title

from Killer Brooks. In 1985, he held the AWA Americas title, another championship no longer in existence. In 1988, Zbyszko won the NWA's Western States title from Barry Windham; that belt was discontinued upon Zbyszko's return to the AWA.

The fortunes of the AWA have declined significantly over the past few years. I sincerely hope the organization can avoid falling victim to the Zbyszko title jinx.

JIM BRADLEY
Jackson, NJ



Paul E. Dangerously shoves Jim Cornette into the corner during their tuxedo match. Reader Larry Hoddes doesn't think we should have run a story on a match between non-wrestlers.

TUXEDO JUNCTION

You people wasted valuable space by devoting four pages to the ridiculous tuxedo match between Paul E. Dangerously and Jim Cornette ("Paul E. Dangerously vs. Jim Cornette: Dressed To Kill!" November 1989). The sport is *wrestling*, not two underdeveloped, overdressed, obnoxious men fighting their uninteresting battle in the ring. Save it for Flair-Funk, Sting-Muta, and Road Warriors-Samoan Swat Team. The space would be better used.

LARRY HODDES
Jackson, TN

Dangerously vs. Cornette? Elizabeth vs. Sherri? What is this, *Inside Wrestling* or the *National Enquirer*? That's two stories in one issue about people that aren't even wrestlers. You guys should be ashamed of yourselves. It's because of this kind of attention and publicity that these matches are allowed to take place.

STEVE MANZI
Ottawa, Ontario

SAVE ELIZABETH!

I believe Bob Smith spoke for thousands in the article, "Please Elizabeth—Don't Wrestle Sensational Sherri!" (November 1989). It would be terrible to see such beauty disfigured by a female rat.

If the officials of the WWF allow such a match to take place, the fans should boycott the federation entirely. Surely, Vince McMahon is not hurting for money so much that he would allow it.

"Scary" Sherri would love to disfigure Elizabeth. She knows that she can never, ever, be as popular as Elizabeth.

RAY POWERS
S. New Berlin, NY

FUNK VS. STING

It's easy to figure out why Terry Funk was after Sting ("Sting: Why Is Terry Funk Gunning For This Man?" November 1989). Funk, a lifetime loser, knew that he had no shot at beating Ric Flair, so he decided to go after Sting. Of course, Funk was making a



It would be tragic if the WWF allowed Elizabeth to wrestle Sensational Sherri, writes Ray Powers, who fears for Elizabeth's health.

big mistake, because Sting will eventually teach Funk a lesson. Men like Funk never win in the long run.

JOE MANNA
Foxboro, MA

Now that Funk has been injured by Ric Flair, we can only hope that he'll have learned his lesson: What goes around comes around. Funk made a big mistake the first time he attacked Flair. He made a bigger mistake by going after Sting. Maybe Funk's momentum carried him for a while, but now he's burned out. It's time for him to step aside and let somebody else go after Flair—and I don't mean Dick Slater!

LISA RICKEY
Melbourne, FL

NWA: CIRCUS OR SERIOUS?

For the past few years, I have heard criticism about the WWF being a circus sideshow. Well, what about the NWA? Every week the NWA has been playing their wrestling hotline video. Then you have Jim Ross and Paul E. Dangerously acting like The Odd Couple. And, of all things, they have turned Rick Steiner and Robin Green's relationship into a crazy soap opera.

The NWA is trying to compete with the WWF by using similar gimmicks, but they have only embarrassed themselves. In the past few months, they have lost a great deal of talent to the WWF, such as Ron Garvin, Dusty Rhodes, Barry Windham, J.J. Dillon, and more.

(Continued on page 48)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Stu
Saks

Editor-in-Chief

Brace yourself! If you read magazines and newspapers and watch TV—which covers just about everybody—you're about to get hit by a ton of decade retrospectives. It's bad enough when a year is winding down. Now we have a whole decade coming to an end. Just imagine what's going to happen in 1999!

This thought came to me after editing Bill Apter's story "Rock 'n' Roll Revival: Morton & Gibson's Incredible Comeback" in this issue. Why? Because I started to think about who is the tag team of the decade, and that it's probably The Rock 'n' Roll Express, not The Road Warriors.

Which might seem strange coming from the editor of a magazine that has named The Road Warriors Tag Team of the Year four times in this decade and made them number one in the Tag Team ratings for years on end. But think about it: Has any team done more than The Rock 'n' Roll Express?

Robert Gibson and Rick Morton are four-time former NWA World champions. They won the Mid-Southern tag title for the first time in 1984 and have been on top wherever they've gone. They were voted Tag Team of the Year in 1986. And, in mid-September, they captured the CWA tag belts, long after everybody thought they were finished as a team.

So, while Animal and Hawk were winning all of their matches—except for the ones that really counted—Morton and Gibson were proving themselves as clutch performers, and in the same federation as the "Legion of Doom."

And, of course, they must be considered the most popular tag team of the decade. Although they're not in the national spotlight any longer, the Rock 'n' Rolls were incredibly popular.

In individual years, The Road Warriors were clearly best. But The Rock 'n' Roll Express keeps bouncing back from adversity. They're my team of the decade.

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TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by David
Rosenbaum

YOU CAN KEEP WrestleMania and SummerSlam. The two best events on the WWF calendar—the Survivor Series and the Royal Rumble—are just around the corner!

WrestleMania is usually two-thirds boredom, one-third excitement. At the prices they charge for tickets in the Atlantic City Convention Center, and at \$19.95 a pop for pay-per-view, that's not exactly a great wrestling bargain. SummerSlam isn't much better.

But the Survivor Series and the Royal Rumble are different. The Rumble, which for the past two years has been held in January, features 20 of the WWF's top stars in a marathon battle royal-type event. The Survivor Series, which enters its third year on Thanksgiving Day at the Rosemont Horizon near Chicago, features 10 teams of four wrestlers each in five tag team matches.

In neither event will a championship be on the line. But both cards will affect the future of the WWF. Men will put their bodies—and careers—on the line.

Most importantly, the fans will be entertained by exciting wrestling. That's a change from the WWF status quo, which is to rely on gimmicks and flashy outfits to entertain a public the federation sorely underestimates.

The Survivor Series matchups: Hulk Hogan, Jake Roberts, and Demolition vs. Zeus, Ted DiBiase, and The Powers of Pain, in the main event.

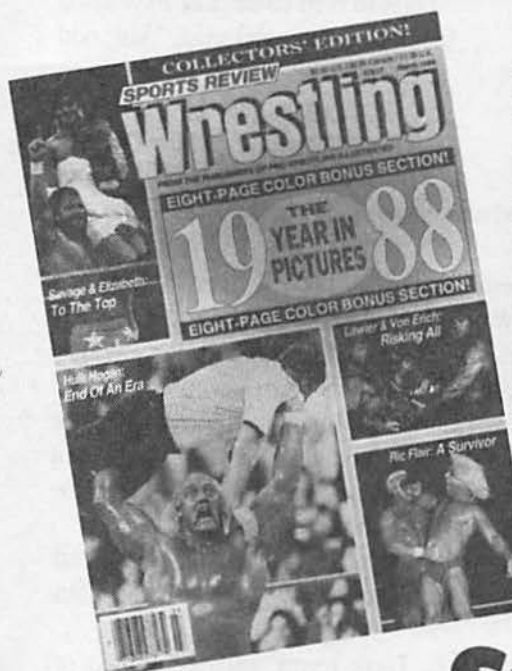
The Ultimate Warrior, Jim Neidhart, and The Rockers vs. Andre the Giant, Haku, Tully Blanchard, and Arn Anderson.

Roddy Piper, Jimmy Snuka, and The Bushwhackers vs. Rick

(Continued on page 61)

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TERRY FUNK IS a very troubled man.

Of course, you knew that already. Everybody who's followed even a fraction of Funk's war with Ric Flair knows that the "Nature Boy" is dealing with an utter madman.

But there may be slight hope for Funk, and that's something you probably *didn't* realize.

On a recent installment of "Funk's Grill," Funk had a message for all the young children viewing the program at home: "Don't try this at home!" He was referring to the incident at the Clash of the Champions VIII: "Fall Brawl '89" in which he attempted to suffocate Flair with a plastic bag.



Funk bags Flair

All of which leads me to ask the basic question:

If Funk is so concerned about his actions having an impression on the children at home who are watching him (and a qualified "thumbs up" for that, by the way, since too many wrestlers *don't* have that concern), then why would he go out and attempt such a sadistic deed in the first place? For that matter, why would he do half the stuff he does in the ring, much less out of it?

"Well, Craig, it's a spur of the moment thing, isn't it?" Funk said when I discussed the issue with him. "When I went out to teach little Rickie Flair a lesson, I just grabbed the first thing that was handy. Could just as easily have been a chair, a piece of wood, a garbage can, whatever. The bag was there, my blood was boiling, and I made my move. I don't apologize for what I did, because Flair had it coming to him.

"On the other hand, I've got kids, I've got close friends with kids, and once in a while, after the fact, you think about those things. So I decided to say what I said, it's that simple. No big deal."

What about the idea of practicing what you preach?

"Hell, boy, I wouldn't want any o' those little cowpokes out there who watch me on television trying *any* of the stuff I do," Funk said. "I mean, I don't want no kids bodyslamming each other around the house, dropkicking their little brothers into the stove, or anything like that.

ON THE ROAD

with
CRAIG PETERS

You know, I've seen articles in the paper where kids try sleeperholds on their mamas and stuff. I don't go for any of that, and I think the kids ought to look at *everything* that takes place in the pros and leave it to the pros."

It will take a lot more work and many personal changes for Terry Funk to even come close to winning the title of "humanitarian," but, odd as it seems, his "Funk's Grill" was a step in the right direction.

If only he could shed the "do as I say, not as I do" contradiction and start practicing what he has surprisingly preached.

The AWA doesn't get any respect. Big news, right? It's a shame, in a way, because they have some extremely talented wrestlers there—men like Mike Enos, Wayne Bloom, Paul Diamond, Jonnie Stewart—who could hold their own in any federation. But somebody has to be number three to the WWF and the NWA, and that's a difficult position to assume no matter how healthy the talent roster or television production.

But there are some new ideas coming to the AWA, and the Team Challenge Series concept is a step in the right direction.

What happens is this: Three teams, each comprised of 11 wrestlers (rulebreaking *and* scientific, chosen from a blind draw) will compete weekly for points. At the end of the year, the top two teams will compete in a \$1-million tournament. Home video and pay-per-view events are planned throughout the first year of the series.

The team concept will mark an exciting new era for the AWA. But one man who won't be around for that era is Greg Gagne, who recently announced his retirement.

I'm sorry to see Greg call it quits. Frankly, his career has been one of severe ups and downs over the past few years; "Rambo" Greg Gagne was as unable to capture the AWA World title as was "High Flyer" Greg Gagne. Nevertheless, Greg had become a fixture in the AWA, and perhaps he had been taken for granted by fans and promoters and the press.

He claims otherwise, but deep down I'm sure he is disappointed that he never captured the World title (his dad claimed nine).

I'll choose to remember Greg Gagne the sportsman, who had to be pushed to the farthest limits before he even *considered* bending the rulebook. I'll choose to remember Greg Gagne the gentleman, who sent me a videotaped message of congratulations shortly after my daughter was born in March.

Greg Gagne has retired. The AWA won't seem quite the same. □



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GREG GAGNE

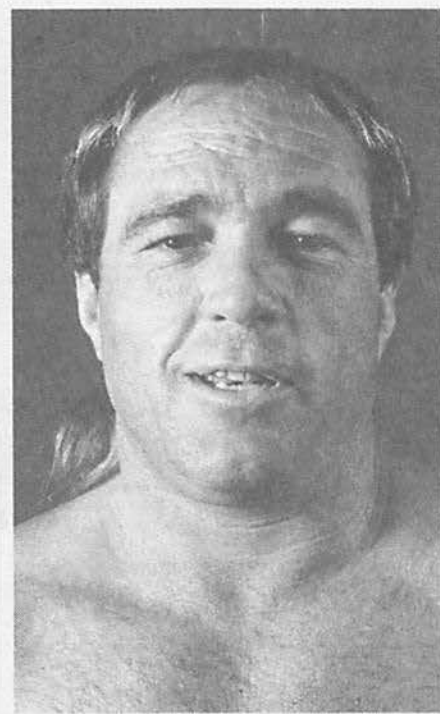
GREG GAGNE IS retiring. The two-time former AWA World tag team and TV champion made the surprise announcement in early October and could be out of the ring by November.

"I just had nothing left to prove," Greg, a 17-year ring veteran, told me in the current issue of our sister magazine, *The Wrestler*. "I never sought to escape my father's shadow, I was proud of what he had done, and it never bothered me that people would say, 'That's **Verne Gagne's** son.' But I also believe that my accomplishments shouldn't be compared to his. What he did was extraordinary. But I think to be a two-time World tag team champion and TV champ is pretty good on its own. And I'm satisfied that I have carried on the Gagne tradition of clean wrestling." For the complete story, check out the January issue of *The Wrestler*.

Randy Savage has a problem in his corner. Her name is **Sensational**

Sherri, and ever since she became Savage's manager after WrestleMania V, the "Macho Man" has been in a deep slump. He's been humbled by **Hulk Hogan** several times—including twice within a remarkable 16-hour period recently—and has been pinned by **Brutus Beefcake** several times and also by **Roddy Piper**. But Savage isn't entirely to blame. Most of his losses have been because of Sherri's interference. And, of course, Savage is easily distracted these days. During a match against Beefcake, Savage climbed to the second rope to argue with **Hacksaw Duggan**. When Savage climbed down, Beefcake snuck up from behind and rolled him up for the pin. Remember when **Elizabeth** was Savage's manager? The "Macho Man" always kept his mind on business.

Another second-generation star is gaining attention in the squared circle: "**Coconut Kid**" **Tio Samoa**, son of veteran **Cocoa Samoa**. Tio recently



STEVE KEIRN



OWEN HART

received a match against Florida champion **Steve Keirn**, but lost via a Keirn piledriver . . . **Blackjack Mulligan** is back in action and wrestling for Pro Wrestling from Florida (formerly FCW). Blackjack is teaming with his son, **Kendall Windham**, and plans to go after tag team champions **The Nasty Boys** . . . **Mark Tendler** is promoting cards in New York and New Jersey under the banner of United Wrestling Stars. The theme of these cards is "Say No To Drugs."

"**Bad**" **Hugh Hart**, the black sheep of the Hart wrestling family in Calgary, is out to get his uncle, Stampede promoter **Stu Hart**. It seems as if Stu and his brother **Lou Hart** never got along. Hugh's team, **The Blackharts**, are after the International tag belts held by **Sumo Hara** and **Benkai Sasaki**—**The Samurai Warriors**. Hart has also signed **Bret Derringer** and **Matt Derringer** to feud with **Bruce** and **Owen Hart**, and is managing North American champion **Larry Cameron**.

Kerry Von Erich has taken aim at CWF champion **Dennis Condrey**. Von Erich is wrestling more and more matches away from his home turf in

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...

Texas. That's one rarely stated impact of World Class' change to the USWA last summer . . . **Tommy Rich** appears to have lost his chance to dethrone U.S. champ **Lex Luger**. Rich has been wrestling **Jacko Victory**, while Luger is preparing for a series of matches against **Sting** and **Brian Pillman** . . . **Nord the Barbarian** won an 11-man battle royal in Portland by eliminating **Carl Styles** . . . Hurricane Hugo had an effect on wrestling. Several cards were cancelled, including the WWC's anniversary show. It was rescheduled for early October.

The CWA title was held up because of controversy regarding the identities of **Texas Dirt** and **Dutch Mantel**—who are suspected of being the same person! Mantel says Dirt gave the belt to him. Promoter **Eddie Marlin** ruled the exchange illegal . . . **Road Warrior Animal** was on the verge of pinning **Sid Vicious** in only three minutes when **Teddy Long** interfered . . . The tournament for the vacant AWA World tag team title was scheduled to be held just days after press time. We'll have complete results next



TEDDY LONG



ROBERT FULLER

month. **The Destruction Crew—Mike Enos** and **Wayne Bloom**—are heavy favorites.

The CWA filled its vacant U.S. junior heavyweight title, but wrestling purists couldn't have been happy with the matchup—or the result. The match pitted manager **Downtown Bruno** (5'5", 120 pounds) against midjet star **Butch Cassidy**. The midjet had the edge when the two collided with the referee. **Robert Fuller** ran into the ring, piledrived Cassidy, and put Bruno on top of him. The referee recovered and made the three-count. It's hard to believe that the scrawny Bruno will still be champion by the time this hits the newsstands. And it's harder still to believe that CWA officials would sanction such a match when there are worthy junior heavyweights waiting for an opportunity.

Antonio Inoki, who was recently elected to public office in Japan, refereed a match between **Big Van Vader** and **Bam Bam Bigelow**. AWA fans should look for Vader in the upcoming Team Challenge Series. Fans of every federation should look for Bigelow; who

knows where he's going to show up next! . . . **Rick Rude** has now taken to insulting entire cities. He refused to kiss a woman in Louisville, Kentucky, because "women in Louisville aren't pretty enough" . . . **Tom Zenk** hasn't been getting a great reaction from NWA fans. Zenk, who was extremely popular in the AWA and WWF, has been booed. "I don't understand it," Zenk said. Maybe he should confer with **Rick Steamboat**, who was also booed by many NWA fans.



RICK RUDE

Harry Taylor has been named President of the new North American Championship Wrestling Federation. Its top stars include **Pez Whatley**, **Ivan Koloff**, and **The Bullet** . . . **Magnum T.A.** and **Tracey Cedarburg** were married on September 16 in Chesapeake, Virginia . . . Veteran wrestler **Eduardo Perez** died on September 7 in Tampa, Florida. Perez, 61, was known as the Argentinian Bull . . . **Al Perez** is headed to the WWF.

That's all for now, fans. See you at the matches! □

THE

By Eddie Ellner

[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]

PRO WRESTLING IN the '90s: Leave the kids home.

Used to be that a guy could bring his family of four (wife and two kids at eight bucks a head) to a wrestling match, stuff them sick with ballpark-type food (another 10 bucks), buy 'em each a program (two bucks), guarantee them a night of clean athletic excitement, and be a hero for under 50 bucks.

Not any longer; at least not in New York. Top ticket for all New York area wrestling matches (Madison Square Garden, Nassau Coliseum, and the Byrne Meadowlands Arena) will now cost \$18 a person. A simple hot dog and soda for each family member will cost him about \$14. And if his family wants souvenirs, father better arrive an hour before the matches begin so his brood can pick and choose, and he better bring mounds of cash. Arenas don't take American Express.

Of course, given the morally bankrupt condition of today's pro wrestling, Dad may be hard-pressed to find clean athletic entertainment for his crew at any price.

In Texas, a Mexican death match pits Taras Bulba and P.Y. Chu-Hi with Tojo Yamamoto in their corner against Kerry Von



Not only are Chris Adams and his wife, Toni, feuding with Gen. Skandor Akbar's men, dangerous weapons like the kendo stick are an important part of their matches. The increased use of lethal foreign objects even bothers Eddie Ellner.

Erich and Chris Adams, who have in their corner, for some inexplicable reason, Adams' wife, Toni. (The explanation is that weeks before, Tojo slapped Toni Adams and she has sought her revenge ever since.) A Mexican death match means each team brings a weapon of its choice to the ring, whereupon a coin flip decides which team gets to place its weapon in a box. The weapon is

then placed atop a pole high above the ring. Whoever can scale the pole and retrieve the weapon gets to use it legally.

This has to please Dad no end: Not only does he get to spend most of his paycheck on a night at the matches, he has to worry that some deadly weapon might fly out of the ring and take out one of his brood. Take cover,

(Continued on page 52)

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A—ON— ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER

IT REMAINED TRUE to their legend that Rick Morton and Robert Gibson died separate deaths at approximately the same time. For reasons still not entirely clear, the four-time NWA champs broke with each other last year to pursue uncertain singles careers. The split ended what many considered to be the most successful tag team in ring history. Tiny in comparison to the behemoths they wrestled, The Rock 'n' Roll Express blended speed and skill with an uncanny sense of timing to dominate the NWA. The Road Warriors may be remembered as the tag team of the 1980s, but history (and those four Express championships) will force them to share their spotlight with Rick Morton and Robert Gibson.

Separated, both men tumbled into the abyss, wandering aimlessly through a wrestling landscape that treated them (they, who had at the peak of their powers could do no wrong) with anger and contempt. Wrestlers who had fallen to the cocky pair now drooled at the opportunity to exact revenge. Alone, they posed no threat to the wrestling community; alone they both died.

Robert Gibson will never forget the night he was killed. "I was spending some time in the ACW, wrestling some bum whose name I can't even remember," he recalls. "I could have taken this guy out anytime I wanted. He was fat, with about three chins and was panting like any minute his heart



The Rock 'n' Roll Express is back together again. Robert Gibson and Rick Morton said they felt their singles careers were personally disturbing and they needed a change.

would burst. I got a little playful, a little lazy, and suddenly—*kabam!* This bum nails me with a right cross to the chin.

"I fall to the canvas and this guy is on top of me, flailing away. I'm wobbling, hobbling on my hands and knees. I cannot gain my composure. And then this fat creature begins to talk. 'C'mon, bigshot, c'mon, champ, get your butt up. Some champion you are, you little wimp.' I can't believe this

fool is blabbering like this, and the worst thing is I'm powerless to do anything about it.

"Then the worst possible thing occurs," Gibson continued. "The referee disqualifies him for using the ropes for leverage and hitting me with a closed fist. The crowd is completely behind this guy. They're screaming against the decision, screaming at me, as if I made the call. The ref raised my

(Continued on page 60)

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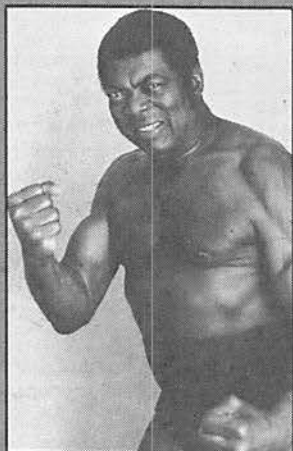
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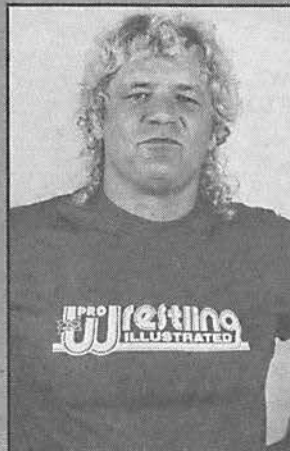
Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



BOBO BRAZIL

The former U.S. champion was the sport's first black superstar, headlining events all over the world from the late '50s through the '70s. Amazingly, not only does Brazil continue to wrestle, but he's the reigning Michigan

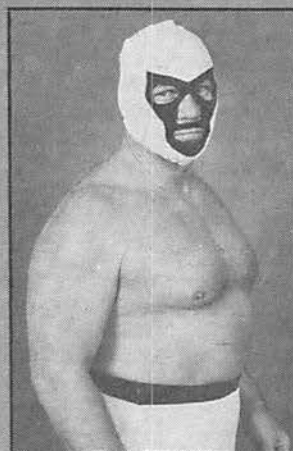
State champion! He's been defending his belt against Igor Zatkoff on independent cards in his home state. "The day I die is the day I quit," he insists. "I've slowed down a bit, but I'm as competitive as ever."



BUDDY ROBERTS

Long famous as the third member of The Fabulous Freebirds with Michael Hayes and Terry Gordy, Buddy "Jack" now makes his home in Chicago. The infamous rule-breaker also seems to have turned over a new leaf, touring the

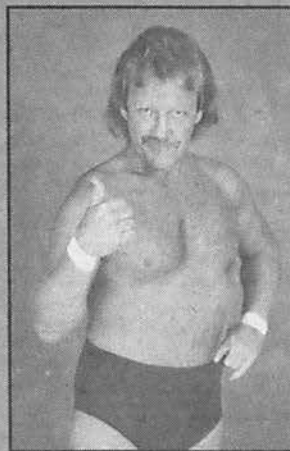
state, lecturing children about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. He also plans to open a wrestling school in the Windy City area. At press time, Roberts had no plans to return to active competition.



MR. WRESTLING II

Another veteran, Wrestling II continues on with his career, preferring to compete in his home state of Georgia. He's appeared on several cards for the NWF and Southern Championship Wrestling, and he's been locked in a

violent feud with local star "Loco" Rick Myers. "I'll teach Myers the same lesson I've been teaching all my opponents for three decades," said II. "I'm still committed to wiping out rulebreakers."



RANDY ROSE

This former member of the "Original" Midnight Express with Dennis Condrey has left the NWA. He recently made a successful tour of Japan, and is now back in the States. "Ravishing" Randy currently wrestles for several inde-

pendent groups throughout the South. "But I've still got a score to settle with Dennis for abandoning me," warns Rose. "Maybe I'll enter the Continental area and take that CWF title from him, just for spite!"

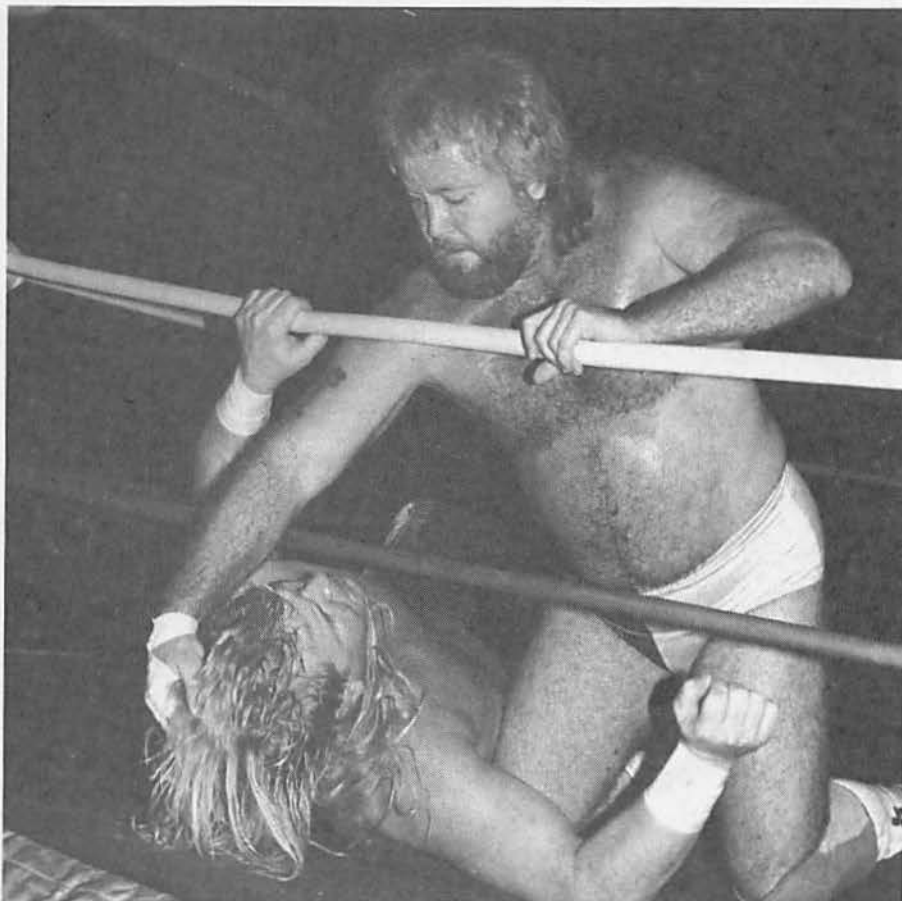
INSIDE WRESTLING

162

CAPSULE PROFILE

DENNIS CONDREY IS currently the CWF champion (*"The greatest there's ever been, brother"*) ... Was an original member of The Midnight Express with Norvell Austin and Randy Rose (*"The first and the best"*) ... Bobby Eaton joined the team in late 1983 (*"At first, I didn't know what to expect from the kid"*) ... They captured the Mid-South tag team title in 1984 and the World Class belts in 1985 (*"He turned out to be a fabulous partner"*) ... In the NWA, they won the World tag title from The Rock 'n' Roll Express in Atlanta on February 2, 1986 (*"We were primed and ready to take the belts off them rock 'n' jokers"*) ... Lost the title to the Rock 'n' Rolls on August 8 of that year (*"Ripped off, plain and simple"*) ... In 1987, Condrey was fired by Cornette because the manager's mother thought the team had to be changed (*"That old bag nearly ruined my career!"*) ... After wrestling as a single for several months, Condrey received a call from Paul E. Dangerously, who wanted to reform the "Original" Midnight Express with Randy Rose (*"Paul E. was a godsend"*) ... That team won the AWA World tag title from Jerry Lawler and Bill Dundee on October 30, 1987 (*"Proved we were still championship-caliber ath-*

DENNIS CONDREY

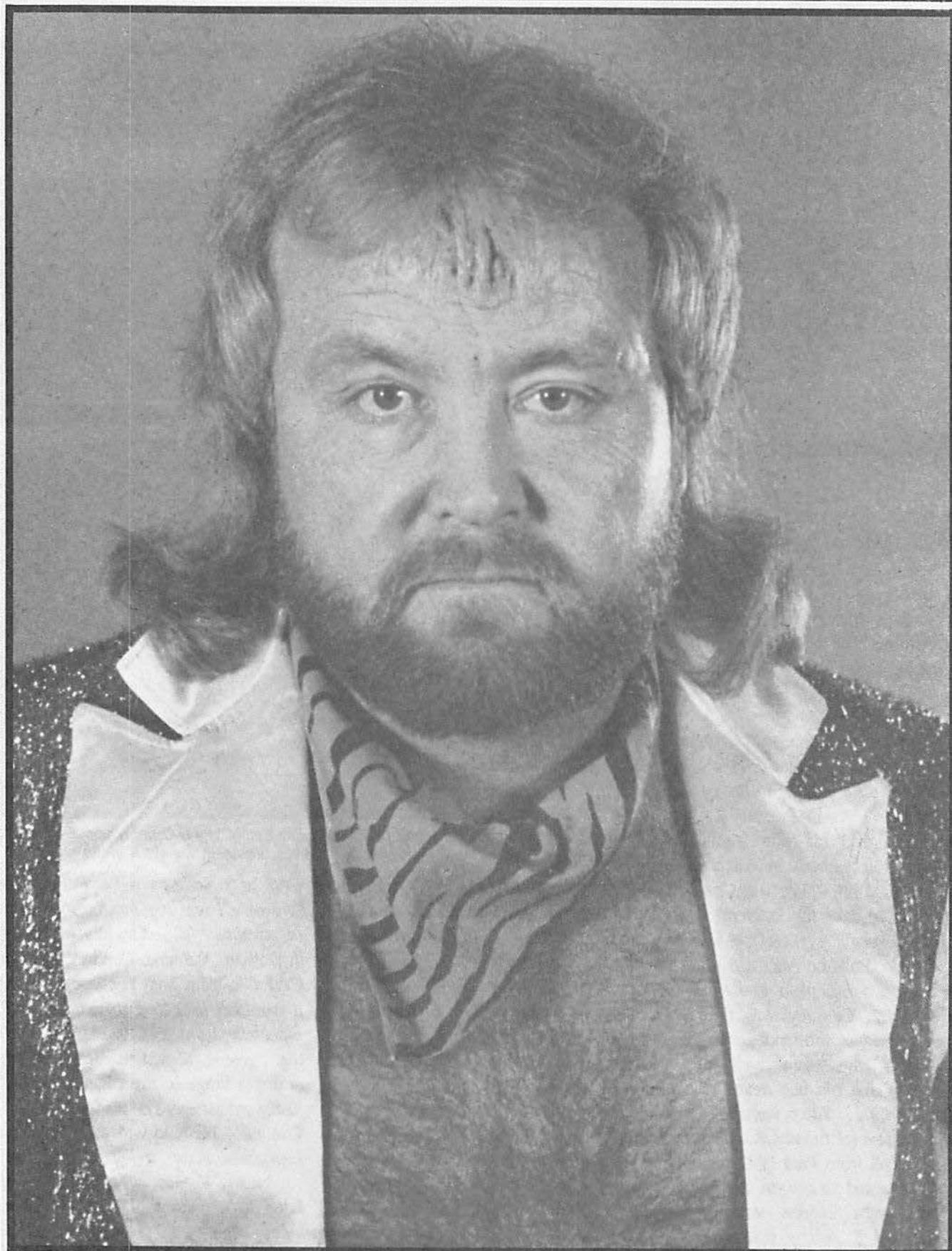


Dennis Condrey battles his former partner, Bobby Eaton. When Condrey and Eaton were The Midnight Express, they won several tag titles, including the NWA World title.

letes") ... On December 27, they lost the title to The Midnight Rockers ... (*"Another couple o' pansies like the Rock 'n' Rolls"*) ... The duo then moved on to the Windy City federation (*"Chicago was our kind of town"*) ... They instigated a feud with Cornette's Express in October 1988 (*"We had to prove who the real Midnight Express was"*) ... At Starrcade '88, they lost to Cornette's team (*"At least I didn't get pinned"*) ... At Chi-Town Rumble on February 20, 1989, in another match against the Express, Condrey was replaced by Jack Victory; Dangerously said he had given Condrey a vacation (*"Let Rose do the dirty work, I figured"*) ... Eventually broke with Dangerously and went to the

CWF as a singles wrestler—and a fan favorite (*"I was looking for some kind of advantage"*) ... On July 22, 1989, in Dothan, Alabama, Condrey won the CWF title from Tom Prichard (*"I knew it wouldn't take long to win that belt, especially from that loser"*) ... Later that evening, turned rulebreaker again during a "rage in the cage" match (*"I just went where the money was"*) ... Continued his feud with Prichard (*"He kept insisting on trying to beat me"*) ... Nearly lost his title to Kerry Von Erich in a memorable bout in Knoxville, Tennessee, on September 22 (*"The heck I did; it was no contest"*) ... His greatest competition now is coming from Wendell Cooley (*"Competition? Don't make me laugh!"*) □

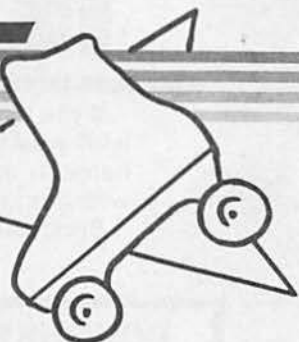
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DENNIS CONDREY

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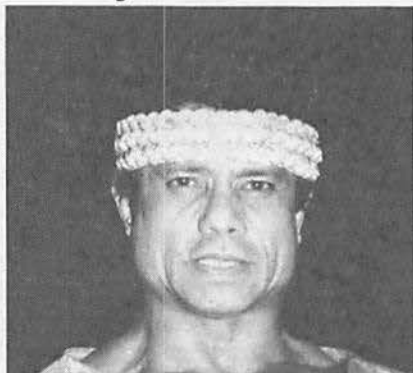
NEWS FROM THE

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POUGHKEEPSIE, NY

By Joe Mason



JIMMY SNUKA

vs.

THE HONKY TONK MAN

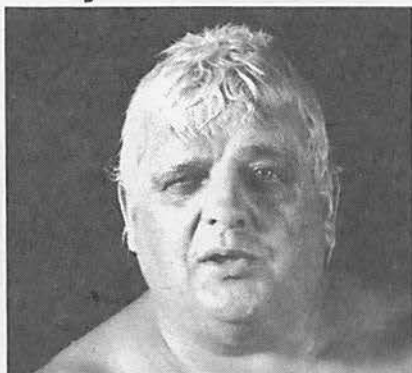


This was a steel cage match. After Jimmy Hart distracted Snuka, Honky Tonk nailed Snuka with vicious right hands. Honky had a chance to exit the cage through the door but decided to punish Snuka some more. Snuka, rejuvenated by the cheers of the crowd, hit Honky with a devastating chop. Honky gave Snuka his "shake, rattle, and roll" neckbreaker, then tried a fistdrop from the top turnbuckle, but Snuka moved away. "Superfly" then climbed out of the cage.

OTHER BOUTS: The Bushwhackers defeated Mr. Fuji & Warlord ... Curt Hennig pinned Paul Roma ... Jose Luis Rivera pinned Sandy Beach ... Steve Lombardi pinned Bob Bradley ... Boris Zuhov beat Bill Woods.

BLOOMINGTON, MN

By Erick Hofacker



DUSTY RHODES

vs.

BIG BOSSMAN



Late in the match, Dusty battered Bossman with a series of elbows and right hands. But when Dusty had Bossman down, he didn't want the pin. Instead, he chased after Slick and caught him on the ring apron. Bossman recovered and came over to where Dusty and Slick were. When Dusty and Slick fought for control of Dusty's nightstick, Slick accidentally hit Bossman and Dusty scored the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Dino Bravo defeated Mark Young ... Tugboat beat Steve Lombardi ... Hacksaw Duggan beat Ted DiBiase ... Haku drew with Tito Santana ... Demolition beat The Brain Busters by DQ ... Roddy Piper and Rick Rude were both counted out.

ST. LOUIS, MO

By Duane Edwards



RIC FLAIR

vs.

DICK SLATER



Slater won the first fall of this Texas death match with interference from Gary Hart, but Flair used a series of neckbreakers to win the second fall. Slater won the third fall, but Flair came back to capture the next two falls. Then Hart's interference backfired. He tossed a chair to Slater, but Flair grabbed the chair and piledrived Slater on it to score the pin. Flair won when Slater was unable to answer the bell for the seventh fall.

OTHER BOUTS: Dick Murdoch beat The Great Muta by DQ ... Lex Luger pinned Tommy Rich ... The Skyscrapers and The Steinners battled to a double-DQ ... Butch Reed pinned Scott Hall ... The Dynamic Dudes beat The New Zealand Militia ... The Cuban Assassin beat Rick Sartais.

WRESTLING CAPITALS



LOUISVILLE, KY By Brian Tirpak



**RICK MORTON
vs.
MARK STARR**



Morton was scheduled to wrestle with his partner Robert Gibson in a tag team match, but Gibson was injured. Manager Ronald Gossett then offered Morton \$1,000 to wrestle one of his men if Morton would put his hair on the line. Morton was dominating Starr when Starr's partner, Chris Champion, hit the ring and threw Starr a packet of powder. Starr was about to throw the powder in Morton's eyes when Morton kicked the powder into Starr's face and pinned him.

OTHER BOUTS: Plowboy Frazier beat RPM Mike Davis by DQ ... Jeff Jarrett drew with Dirty White Boy ... Dustin Rhodes, Bill Dundee, & Jamie Dundee defeated The Blackbirds & Harold T. Harris ... Black Bart beat Texas Dirt ... Jerry Lawler & Kerry Von Erich defeated Chris Champion & Buddy Landell by DQ.

MEMPHIS, TN By Mark Mitchell



**LEX LUGER
vs.
EDDIE GILBERT**



Gilbert was substituting for Tommy Rich, and he was determined to make the most of his opportunity. The smaller Gilbert used his superior scientific skills to befuddle Luger with well-executed armdrags and monkey flips. Gilbert rolled up Lex for the pin, but Luger was able to reverse the move and score the pin by grabbing Gilbert's trunks.

OTHER BOUTS: The New Zealand Militia defeated Scott Hall & Ranger Ross ... Eddie Gilbert beat Ron Simmons ... Mike Rotundo drew with Steve Williams ... The Skyscrapers and The Steiners were both counted out ... Sting defeated The Great Muta by DQ ... Ric Flair beat Dick Slater.

WILDWOOD, NJ By Dave Dellacroce



**DAVID SAMMARTINO
vs.
NIKOLAI VOLKOFF**



Volkoff hurt Sammartino early in the match with vicious kicks to the head and stomach. Sammartino was able to battle back and lock Volkoff in an abdominal stretch. Suddenly, Davey O'Hannon charged in the ring and helped Volkoff double-team Sammartino. Soon, almost every wrestler on the card joined the fray, causing both men to be disqualified.

OTHER BOUTS: Tommy Town defeated Chuck Williams ... Joey Maggs beat Davey O'Hannon by DQ ... The Monks defeated The Cream Team by DQ ... The Cheetah Kid defeated James Londos.



Matt Brock's PLAIN SPEAKING

NEW YORK, NY: "Bottled-up anxiety. Tension. Negative attitude. Always worried about other people's problems. A perfectionist. You're on the verge of high blood pressure, Mr. Brock. I suggest that you take it easy." That, in a nutshell, was what the psychologist who now works on a part-time basis at *Inside Wrestling* had to say during our "assessment" meeting. Saks, in all his brilliance, decided that the new heavy workload here (the boxing department recently added *The Ring* magazine to its already sparkling catalog; *PWI Weekly* should already be on your subscription lists; *RollerGames* magazine is now on sale) could put severe mental stress on the employees, so he hired a psychologist to deal with any problems the staff might have. "I don't have any problems," I complained to Saks. "Just do it, Matt, it'll make you feel better," Saks ordered. "Why," I wittily replied, "is she having a barbeque?" Had never been to a psychologist before and walked in expecting to be placed on a couch. Wish I was. The new psychologist measures about 37-24-36, and looks like Rita Hayworth on her best day. She had this thick German accent (don't they all?), and before long, it was Matt Brock front and center! Of course, a shrink is a shrink. "Come see me again next week," she said after about an hour, "and we'll continue our talk." "Next week is no good," said I. "Ronald Gossett is wrestling Jeff Jarrett in a loser-gets-powdered-and-diapered match." She must have thought I was nuts.

MEMPHIS, TN: Check out the photo above, then come back to me. Got it? Got a nice eyeful of fat, disgusting, meat-eating, fat-ingesting Ronald Gossett with a pacifier in his ugly mouth and a big pair of pampers around his cellulite-cursed posterior? Check out that nice little hat he's got on top of his head? This man is one of the biggest disgraces in wrestling history and it's about time he got his due. Things started to go wrong for Gossett when his interference led to The Rock 'n' Roll Express winning the CWA tag belts from Mark Starr and Chris Champion, the team Gossett manages (call them Wildside



RONALD GOSSETT

and Side of Beef). About a week later, Gossett lost to Jeff Jarrett in a loser-gets-powdered-and-diapered match. Now, I don't know what the world is coming to, but when Pampers becomes a major player in a federation, something is very wrong. But in this case, Gossett was humiliated, and that's all that counts. After the matches, I ran into him in a little restaurant in downtown Memphis. He was wolfing down a big plate of meatball parmigiana with a huge side order of stuffed shells. "You're a disgrace to the sport," I said to Gossett. "You don't know what the heck you're talking about," Gossett retorted.

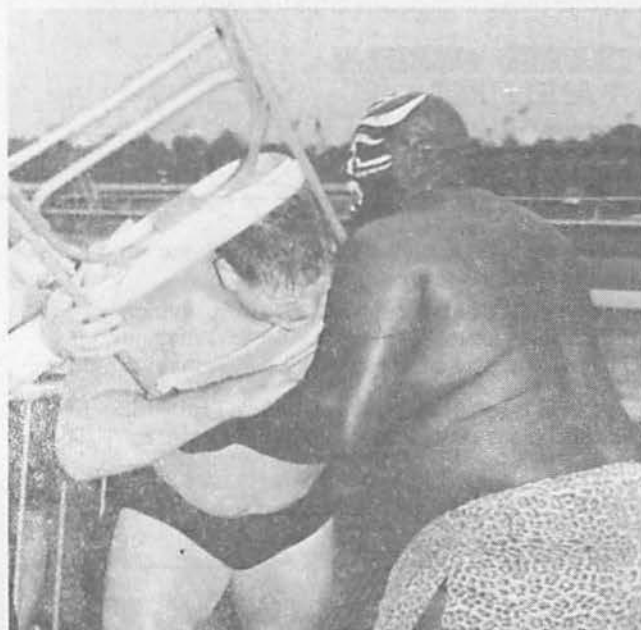
Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

"I'm gonna rule Memphis real soon, and you can count on it." "Count calories," I wittily replied, then went to the bar and ordered a glass of club soda and the house salad. No dressing. I'm starting to get used to this. Was counting age spots on my right hand the other day and only came up with 15. Five are missing. Psychologist shmychologist, Brock's getting younger.

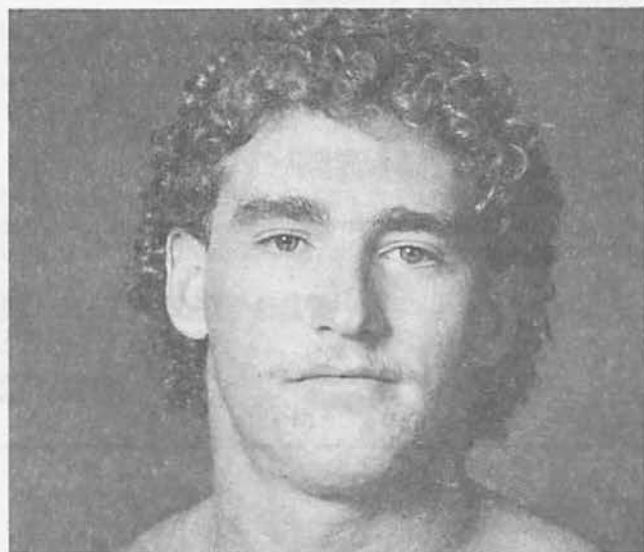
CHERRY HILL, NJ: Woke up with chest pains and got a little worried, then realized that a big piece of ceiling in this dive I was staying in fell right on top of me. No damage done, but I picked up this chunk of plaster and brought it down to the front desk. Woman behind the desk gave me a drunken stare and said, "What the heck are you doing with a piece of the establishment?" Realized that nothing was going to get done, so I went back to my room. Fell back to sleep and woke up again when the guy upstairs stepped right through the hole. Suddenly, there's somebody's right Reebok dangling through the ceiling, and I'm trying to get a good night's sleep. Well, sleep wasn't possible, anyway. There was a big event here tonight. Stan Hansen returned to the United States and wrestled Kamala on a big WWA card at Garden State Park Racetrack. Hansen and Kamala are the type that

like to get down and dirty, which is exactly what they did. Hansen still has it. He's still as tough as ever, a real wrestler if there ever was one. Watch Hansen and your faith in the sport is restored. He wrestles, he brawls, and he doesn't take crap from *any* opponent, including Kamala. These two battled throughout the track, and at one point I thought Kamala was going to bodyslam this poor old lady standing on line to make a two-dollar show bet. It ended when Hansen smashed Kamala with a trash can and went right in for the pin. I'm hoping Stan sticks around the States for a while. One thing I do know: That Reebok-clad foot hanging through the ceiling didn't belong to Hansen. Stan Hansen wears workboots.

ATTALIA, AL: The Etowah County Fair. Nice place if you like women with tattoos and men with no front teeth. Is it just me or is there something disgusting about men



STAN HANSEN VS. KAMALA



SCOTT ARMSTRONG

sitting at a dinner table with their shirts off? If you're going to eat, at least have the decency to throw on a T-shirt or something. A walk down the midway. Cotton candy; too fattening. Sausage-and-pepper heros; too much cholesterol and too spicy. Beer; already had one this week. Wrestling; Black Panther three times, Scott Armstrong three times. Good, solid action. This is what small-town grappling is all about. I hate to leave, but it's back to New York for an appointment with 37-24-36. □

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Rock 'n' Roll Revival:

MORTON & GIBSON'S

INCREDIBLE COMEBACK

The press said they were dead. The fans mourned their departure. Only Rick Morton and Robert Gibson knew what everybody else waited to find out: The Rock 'n' Roll Express *is* alive and kicking . . . and now they're wearing the CWA tag team belts!

By Bill Apter

LIKE A COUPLE of Cheshire cats that knew all along what was going to happen, but never felt like letting on, Rick Morton and Robert Gibson stood grinning in the front of a room packed with photographers and writers. Moments earlier, everybody learned again that The Rock 'n' Roll Express was *never* dead. But that, of course, was something Morton and Gibson already knew.

They had just won the CWA tag team title from Chris Champion and Mark Starr—a pair of youngsters thought to be the team of the 1990s—and now, as a publicist passed around information sheets that reminded reporters of Morton and Gibson's four NWA World tag team championships, the Rock 'n' Rolls did a little reminding of their own.

"We never said we were finished," Morton said in response to a reporter's question.

"But you said you were in trou-

Photos by Sam Lowe



Rick Morton and Robert Gibson may have been through some rough times over the past few years, but The Rock 'n' Roll Express is now back together and in championship form!

ble as a team," the reporter said.

"We were in trouble, but we were never done," Morton said again.

"Then how can you explain what

happened last year?" another reporter asked.

"Last year was a tough year," Gibson answered, "and we got through it. But we were always a

team. *You* guys might have said we were done, but we never did."

Versions of the same question were asked over and over until, finally, Morton and Gibson excused themselves. "Nobody ever asked us," Morton said. "When we're ready to put The Rock 'n' Roll Express to rest, we'll let you know."

Gibson and Morton then set off on a night of celebration that has rarely been rivaled in Tennessee. The Rock 'n' Rolls painted the town red, making sure to spend time with their fans along the way. It was an appropriate way to finish off an incredible comeback.

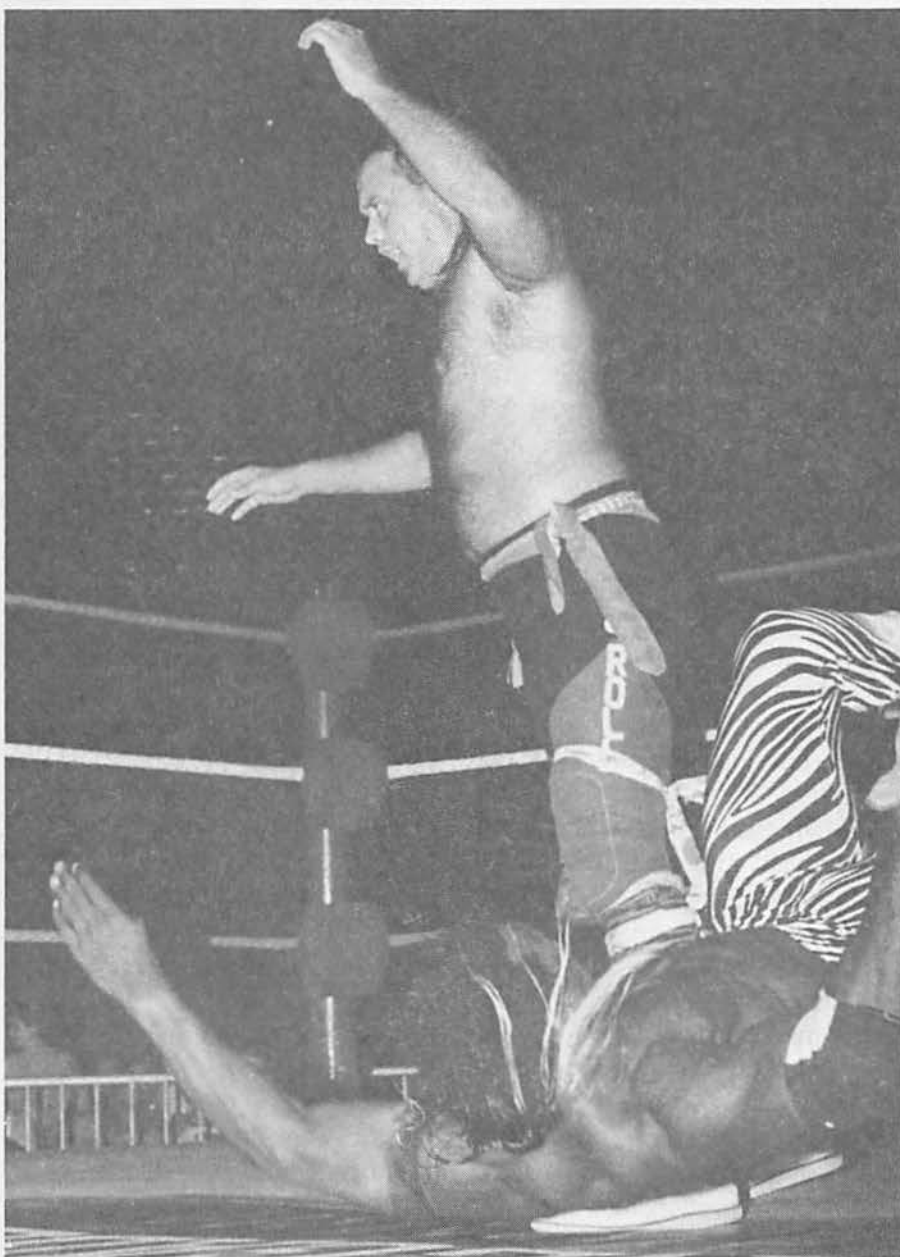
Two years ago, when Morton and Gibson lost the NWA tag title for the last time to Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson, the team was declared dead. Although the Rock 'n' Rolls managed to walk among the living for most of 1988, their matches were decidedly *not* up to par. Twice they left the NWA. Once they split up. Once they turned against the fans (or the fans turned against them, depending on who's telling the story). They were robbed of the AWA World title. They lost the WOW tag title to *Ron Starr and Bob Holly*.

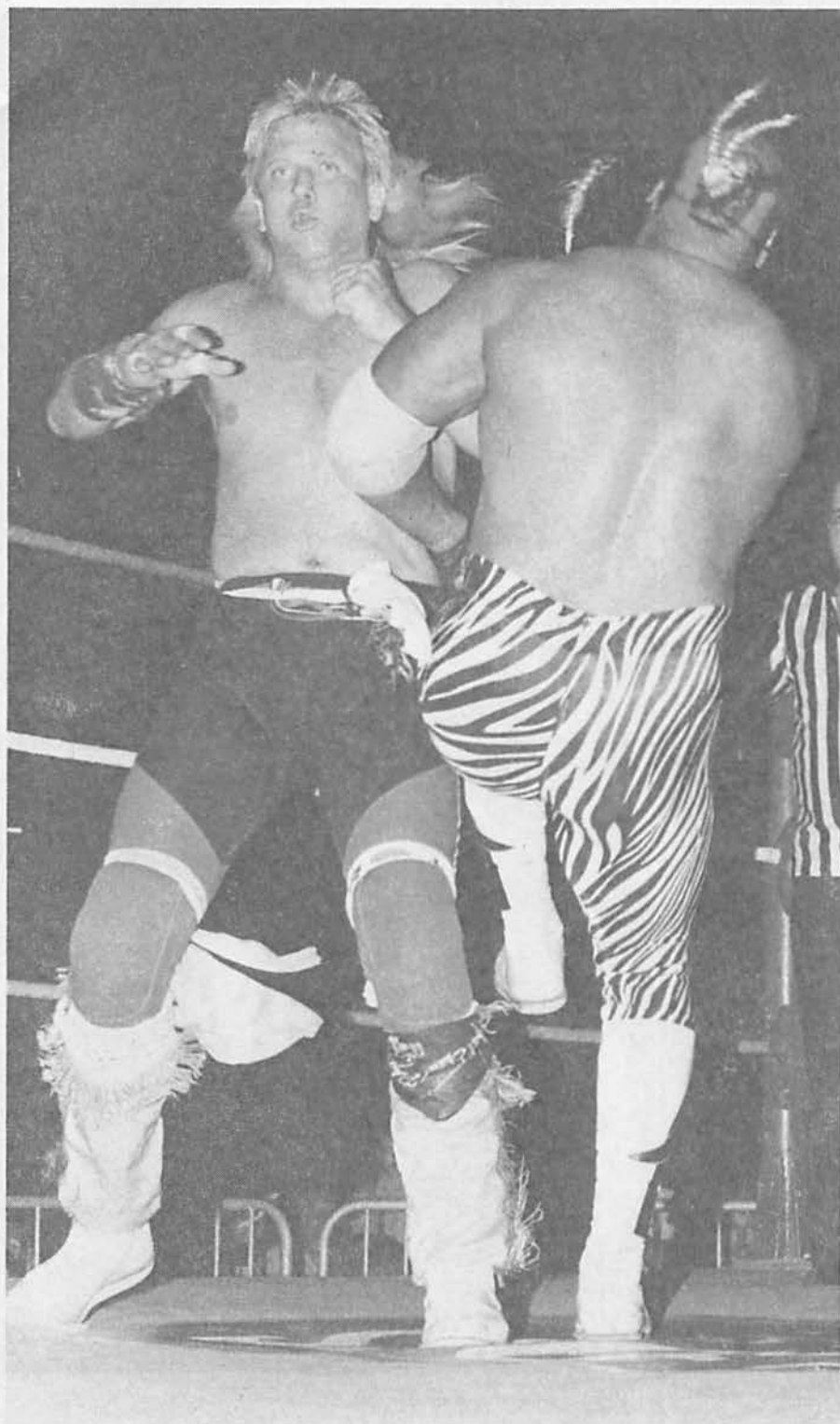
Then, in February, Gibson and Morton were on opposite teams for a tag team match in Memphis. By the end of the night, however, Morton and Gibson were back on speaking terms, if not exactly in championship form. And, as 1989 wore on and they teamed less and less frequently, it seemed as if The Rock 'n' Roll Express was, indeed, dead.

"What me and Bobby did was take some time out," Morton said. "I started teaming with my brother Todd and he was teaming with his brother Rick. We were both involved in family matters and different federations, although we remained friends. Bobby and I talked all the time, and whenever we felt like it, we'd team for a night or two. It was the perfect, no-pressure situation."



Morton executes a flying bodypress on Mark Starr (above). Gibson springs to his feet after dropping Brickhouse Brown to the canvas with a shoulderblock (below).





Morton and Iceman Parsons collide in mid-ring. In a year filled with musical rock 'n' roll comebacks from The Who, The Rolling Stones, Jefferson Airplane, and others, wrestling experienced a rock 'n' roll comeback of its own!

Gibson agreed. "I'm convinced that the first half of the year made this possible," he said. "People always expected so much from The Rock 'n' Roll Express, and we expected so much from ourselves, that it stopped being fun. And isn't that what rock 'n' roll is all about?"

In July, Morton and Gibson started teaming more frequently in the CWA. They smoothed the rough edges on their wrestling repertoire, fine-tuned their usually pinpoint teamwork, and reworked their way up the CWA tag team ladder. Then, when the time came, they challenged Starr and Champion. On

September 11 at the Mid-South Coliseum, Morton and Gibson met destiny.

Jeff Jarrett and Ronald Gossett were handcuffed together at ring-side to prevent interference in this no-time-limit, no-disqualification match, but the evil Gossett, as usual, played an important part in the match. Gossett threw powder in Jarrett's eyes, then gave a packet of powder to Champion.

But Morton was alert and knew what was about to happen. With one swift movement, he kicked the powder into Champion's eyes. Morton and Gibson then knocked down Champion, slung him off the ropes for a double-dropkick, and covered him for the pin. That is, *both* men covered Champion.

"The rules said no disqualifications, so we took advantage," Gibson said.

"It was a team comeback, and it had to be a team victory," Morton said.

And their many fans were ecstatic.

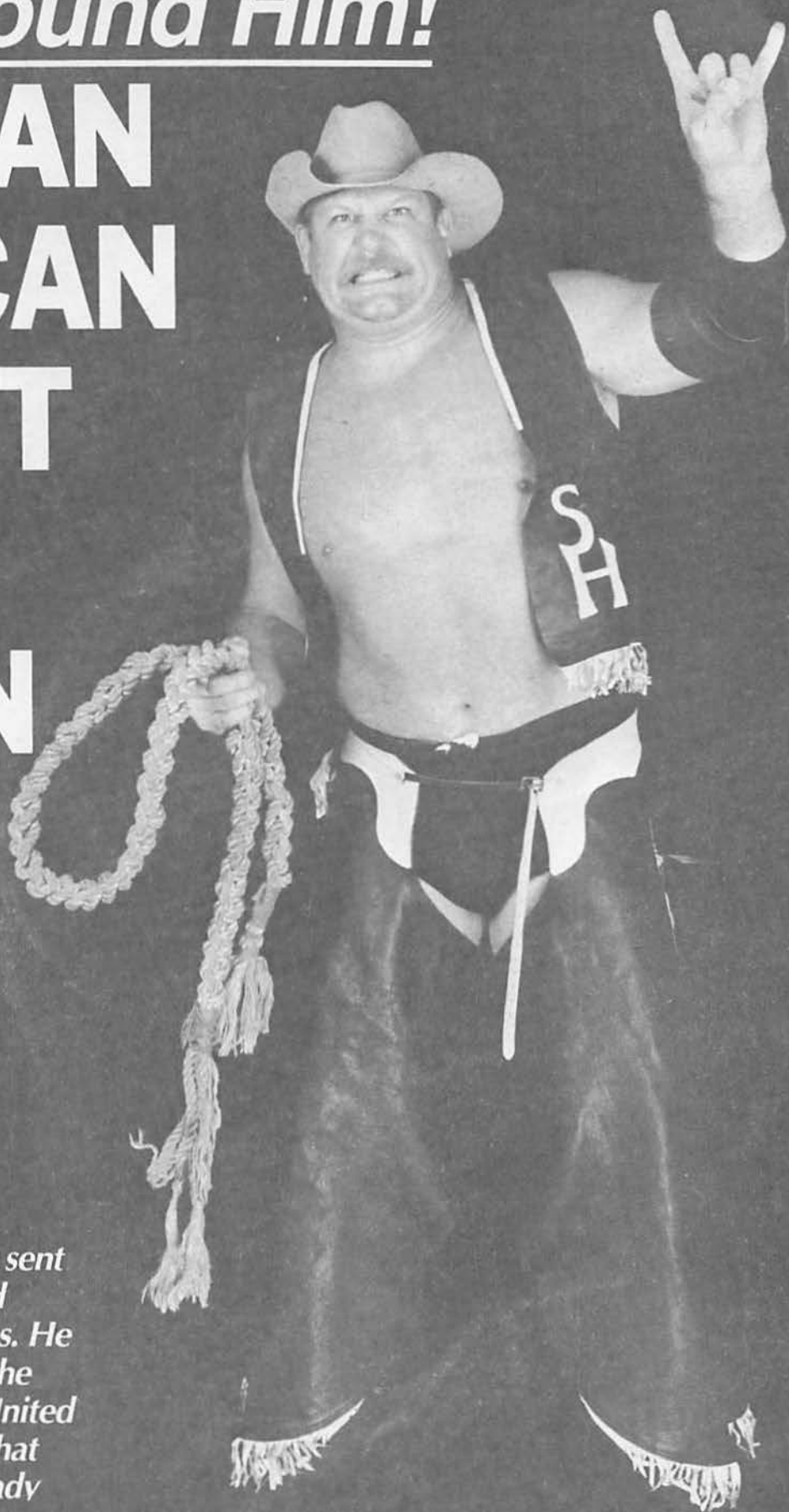
"We all know that Ricky and Robert are loyal, faithful, and would never turn their backs on the fans," said Cindy Crawford of Memphis. "I knew, and every other Rock 'n' Roll Express fan knew, that rock 'n' roll will never die. Maybe they went away for a while, but they'll always return."

It's ironic that in this year of rock 'n' roll nostalgia, a year in which The Who, The Rolling Stones, The Jefferson Airplane, The Doobie Brothers, and The Allman Brothers all went on major concert tours, The Rock 'n' Roll Express recaptured their past glory.

Is another shot at the NWA World title in their future? Will the Rock 'n' Rolls try to win the AWA World tag belts they felt deprived of? Or is Memphis the new home of rock 'n' roll?

"We're just happy where we are," Morton said. "You guys write whatever you want, but we're just going with the beat!" □

We've Found Him! **THE MAN WHO CAN DEFEAT HULK HOGAN**



Since 1984, WWF World champion Hulk Hogan has sent dozens of contenders—and pretenders—to the sidelines. He has established himself as the dominant wrestler in the United States. But there is a man that can beat him—and he's ready to give it a try

By Eddie Ellner

THERE ISN'T A man in the WWF who can legally defeat Hulk Hogan. We're talking about a clean pinfall: no outside interference, no use of the ropes or grabbing onto tights, no mistake by the referee, no imposter referee. Clean. One-two-three. In the middle of the ring using skill and strength.

This has become painfully obvious to Hogan's numerous WWF opponents since he won his first WWF World title in January 1984. Since that time, Hogan has never been cleanly pinned. In fact, only once has he been pinned at all, and videotape replays clearly showed that Hogan lifted his shoulder at the two-count, although

the belt was given to Andre the Giant.

Andre tried. He failed. Randy Savage tried. He failed. Zeus seemed invincible, but Hogan was the invincible one. And while all of the other world champions that have come and gone over the years—Randy Savage, Ric Flair, Nick Bockwinkel, Dusty Rhodes, Rick Steamboat—have proven to be mortal at times, Hogan has resisted all earthly comparisons.

But there's one man who lost his world title without ever being beaten. He fled the AWA when he felt he was being given a raw deal by federation officials. He is a legend in Japan, where he currently shares the All-Japan International tag team title with Terry Gordy. And he was tough enough to be Bruiser Brody's tag team partner and best friend.

Recently, he returned to the United States and managed to out-brutalize the vicious and bloodthirsty Kamala. His name is Stan Hansen, and he might be the only man in the world capable of cleanly defeating Hogan.

Stan Hansen?

Historians might scoff that Hansen was unable to wrest the WWF World title from Bob Backlund at the turn of the decade.

We reply that Hansen made a mockery of the WWF Top 10 in the mid-1970s, wrestled Bruno Sammartino in a match that was stopped because of excessive bleeding on Sammartino's part, and broke the "Living Legend's" neck with his famed lariat.

Historians might scoff that Hansen was afraid to wrestle Nick Bockwinkel on June 29, 1986, in Denver, when Hansen mysteriously disappeared from McNichols Arena after he had arrived for their match. When Hansen refused to return, the belt was awarded to Bockwinkel.

We reply that Hansen's actions since that night, which include courageous victories over some of the best wrestlers in Japan, prove that Hansen must have had a legitimate dispute with Bockwinkel and AWA President Stan-

(Continued on page 54)

Stan Hansen elbowsmashes Hulk Hogan during a 1981 bout in Japan that ended in a draw (above). Since being stripped of the AWA World title in 1986, Hansen has done most of his wrestling in Japan, but he's never forgotten about Hogan. Hansen whacks Kamala with a chair in a recent winning effort in the U.S. (right).



WHY STING'S FRIENDSHIP IS TEARING RIC FLAIR APART!

NWA champion Ric Flair and Sting have formed a strong alliance over the past few months, but Flair doesn't want he and Sting to become too reliant on each other.



By Tim Leonard

UNDERNEATH THOSE sweaty golden locks, Ric Flair's head was as full of confusion as a kid with a dollar and the ice cream man coming around the corner.

The NWA World champion is being ripped apart by a dilemma: How do you say "thanks, but no thanks" to a friend who is offering his help—indeed, putting his career on the line for you—and not risk losing that friend?

A year ago, Flair and Sting were battling across the nation for the NWA World title. Things were simpler then. That was before Sting rescued Flair from a pummeling at the hands of Terry Funk and the evil Great Muta at the Baltimore Great American Bash in July. Flair, at the time, went out of his way to thank Sting. He considered himself in the young man's debt for life. But time passes, and things change.

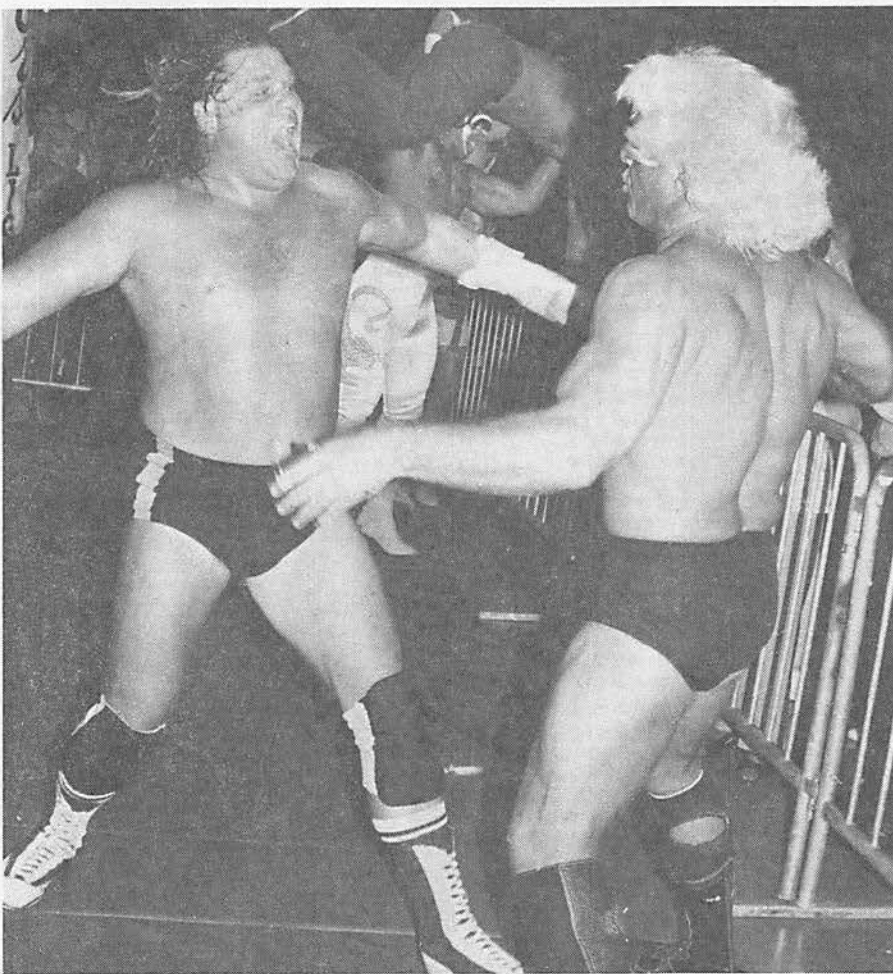
Flair wants his revenge, and so does Sting. Therein lies the problem.

"I know how this sounds," Flair said. "And I know someone as young and sensitive as Sting could take it the wrong way. But I'm better off without him and he's better off without me."

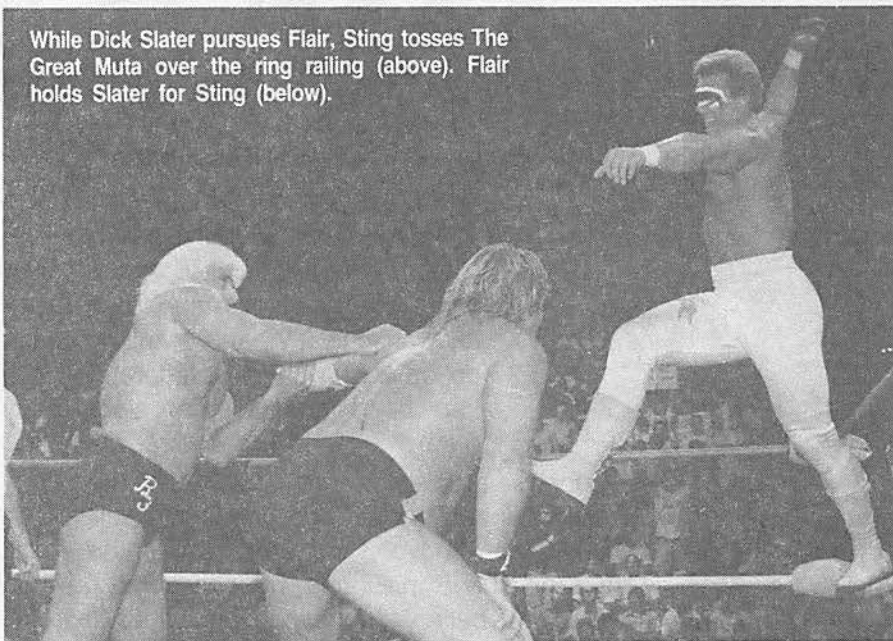
For the better part of his storied career, Flair has been a one-man show, as six NWA titles in eight years well indicate. Now, Sting wants to be part of a team, and Flair is no team player. He had his fill with The Four Horsemen, and it didn't leave a pleasant aftertaste.

"I'm past the point where I want to share the spotlight," Flair said. "This has nothing to do with ego. It has everything to do with me getting a job done and Sting getting on with his career."

In recent weeks, Flair and Sting
(Continued on page 56)



While Dick Slater pursues Flair, Sting tosses The Great Muta over the ring railing (above). Flair holds Slater for Sting (below).



Ric Flair values his budding friendship with the young and talented Sting. But solid friendships are based on honesty—and the NWA champ honestly thinks it's time that he and the "Stinger" went their separate ways in their battles against Terry Funk and The Great Muta

Jake Roberts will do anything to get revenge on Ted DiBiase.

**Jake
Roberts
vs.
Ted
DiBiase:**

COLD-OBSESSED

By Dave Rosenbaum

IT WAS A midsummer afternoon in Georgia. Jake Roberts and his wife, Cheryl, were lounging around their home in a quiet, little suburb of Atlanta, watching TV, and trying to catch up on the WWF, the federation Jake had been absent from since early May.

Roberts' problems were numerous. He hadn't wrestled since May 10, and underwent surgery on May 28 to remove a ruptured disc in his neck. Then, on July 5 in Florida, he was found guilty of aggravated battery for beating up a man last December in Daytona Beach (Roberts has appealed and, at press time, was awaiting a hearing).

But all the frustration of the past few months was about to come to a head. Suddenly, Ted DiBiase appeared on the TV screen, and what he said was enough to heal ruptured discs and make a person forget legal problems. DiBiase, whose money and mouth have talked a lot more than his actions since arriving in the WWF, claimed that he

BLOODED SION!

**Ted
DiBiase
might
have
made
the**

***biggest mistake of his life when
he claimed to have ended Jake
Roberts' career. Within weeks,
Roberts came off the sidelines to
make a run at the "Million-Dollar
Man." Now, each man has put
his career on the line for the
blood of the other***

had caused Roberts' ruptured disc and ended his career.

It was a typically gutless DiBiase statement. Once a tough man's man who was willing to brawl with any wrestler in the sport, even those much bigger, DiBiase has now taken to hiding behind his bodyguard, Virgil, and his new friend, Zeus. And he will challenge a man like Roberts when he thinks that the man is incapable of answering the challenge.

(Continued on page 58)

DiBiase probably
didn't expect Roberts
to come back so soon.



Photos by David Fitzgerald

HOTSEAT

PAUL E. DANGEROUSLY

"I'M TOO DANGEROUS FOR THE NWA!"

SO WHO'S NEXT? Excuse us for stealing your one-liners, Paul E. Dangerously, but you go through teams like Elizabeth Taylor goes through husbands! Like George Steinbrenner goes through managers!

First, there was Austin Idol and Tommy Rich in the CWA. But it didn't take Idol and Rich long to find out that Dangerously's main interest is himself. Then came Dennis Condrey and Randy Rose—The "Original" Midnight Express—the most successful of Dangerously's managing ventures. They won the AWA World tag team title, but crumbled under Dangerously's rule in the NWA.

Dangerously, ready as always, had another team waiting in the wings: The Samoan Swat Team. But this relationship was briefer than the others. At Clash of the Champions VIII, Dangerously's ever-present portable telephone fell into the hands of The Road Warriors and their manager, Paul Ellering. Samu and Fatu were doomed. Hawk slugged Fatu with the phone and, moments later, easily covered him for the pin. Ellering then belted Dangerously in the jaw and crushed his phone. Afterward, Dangerously and his men exchanged words, and the Samoans left the ring without their manager.

Days later, it was announced that Samu and Fatu had fired Dangerously.

Dangerously, as expected, argued that it was his decision to leave the Samoans. But one important detail made it clear that Dangerously had left unwillingly: Unlike the previous times, he still hasn't signed a new team.

In fact, it now appears as if Dangerously's NWA days are over. What's to become of the man thought

“

When you're young and brilliant like I am, you gotta keep on the move. Keep moving until you come across the right combination.

”

to be the future of wrestling management? Senior Writer Dave Rosenbaum traveled to Atlanta to find out.

Q: Paul, excuse me for stealing your one-liners, but you've been going through teams like . . .

A: Like Joe Pedicino goes through

donuts? Like Robin Green goes through mascara? Stop stepping on my lines, Rosenbaum. You're the one that stood up for Randy Rose when he choked in that loser-leaves-town match against Cornette's boys. I don't wanna hear about it. When you're young and brilliant like I am, you gotta keep on the move. Out with the bad, in with the good, keep moving until you come across the right combination. Every team I've managed has served a purpose. Now it's time for the big-time.

Q: And what does that mean? You've been in the NWA for well over a year. You've failed to manage any team to the World or U.S. tag title. You've been humbled by Jim Cornette. It seems to me, Paul, that you've made a lot of noise in the NWA, but there hasn't been too much action.

A: So why don't you go and tell me where the action is, Rosenbaum? It's right here. You're looking at it. Where I go, action follows. Federations want me around because they know I generate excitement. Then things get a little too hot for their blood and they try to get rid of me. I've been knocking down doors and burning bridges for my entire life, but I don't have to look over my shoulder because it's full-





“

The next team I manage will be world champions, and I don't care what federation it's in.

”

speed ahead. You know why the NWA doesn't want me around?

Q: I didn't know the NWA didn't want you around. I was under the impression only Samu and Fatu didn't want you around. Is there something I should know?

A: Yeah, there's something you should know, Rosenbaum. I'm too dangerous for the NWA. I set standards and change the rules. I make people turn on TBS just to see what I'm up to next. They hear Cornette with Ross or Pedicino and they click off their sets. They hear me and they listen closer. They all claim to hate me, but they all want to hear more. People are intrigued by me. I've got charisma, Rosenbaum, and that's something you wouldn't know about.

Q: But you don't have a job.

A: I told you what the story is. I'm ready for the big-time. I'm ready

to make it major-league. The next team I manage will become World champions, and I don't care what federation it's in. I'm getting a bit pickier this time, and I'm not gonna settle for some fat, overweight jungle boys, I'm looking for the next NWA or WWF World tag team champions.

Q: Did you say WWF? I wonder if they'd take you after all you've done.

A: WWF, NWA, AWA, it don't matter. Everybody wants me because they don't want to see me going someplace else. I've got a following, and that's something you can't deny. I attract people. Like it or not, the fans love me. They just don't know it.

Q: They certainly don't, and though one of the reasons for it is that they don't particularly like the teams you manage, they don't really like your style, either. I wouldn't be surprised to see the fans start rooting for Samu and Fatu now that you're not around.

A: That's their bad taste. Listen, Rosenbaum, I set trends, I can't tell people to follow them. Look at it this way, remember that tuxedo vs. tuxedo match with Cornette in Baltimore?

Q: How could I forget? You were thoroughly embarrassed by Cornette, and we're talking about a man that was humbled by Baby Doll.

A: Spare me the details, scribe. The facts are that Cornette came into the ring wearing a powder-blue tuxedo. Now you tell me who in the world wears a powder-blue tuxedo, except for a no-class, country hick like Cornette? That was a tuxedo vs. tuxedo match, and I had the better tuxedo. In my mind, I won the only battle that mattered.

Q: Interesting way to look at it. Of course, by the end of the match, you weren't wearing any tuxedo at all. It turned out to be a tuxedo vs. underwear match . . .

A: And I was *still* dressed better than Cornette!

Q: Let's get back to the present for a minute. When did your problems start with Samu and Fatu? I know that you had an argument with Fatu in August, but things still seemed to be going rather smoothly, at least by your standards. What happened?

A: What happened was that I realized how untalented Samu and Fatu were. It became painfully obvious that no amount of my managerial expertise was going to make the jungle boys into champions, and that was the ultimate goal. Listen, I don't manage to be second-best. I manage to *win*. Rose and Condrey were the only team that ever did anything right, and even *they* turned out to be gutless in the end. Idol and Rich lost the big one, so it was out with them . . .

Q: I think we're getting to the point right now. You bail out on teams when they're going bad, instead of working *with* them. You have all the patience of George Steinbrenner when it comes to managing tag teams.

A: Thanks for the compliment, Rosenbaum. I'm a New Yorker, too,



Paul E. Dangerously has a momentary advantage on Jim Cornette during their tuxedo match, but Paul E. would go on to lose the encounter.

and I know what George has done for the Yankees. Now there's my type of guy. He doesn't take crap from anybody. He wants winners and he gets winners.

Q: The Yankees are losers.

A: But not for long. Here's my point: If you don't create action, you don't get any action. If you don't create excitement, things get boring. I'm not gonna sit around waiting for somebody to do my job. I'm young, Rosenbaum, and I'm moving forward. Eventually, I'm gonna get a team that's willing to do the job and listen to direction.

Until then, I'm not wasting my time with foreigners and half-breeds.

Q: Let's face it, most people in wrestling have always thought that you'd eventually wind up in the WWF. It just seems to be the natural place for you. What's the story?

A: That's between me and myself. I'm not giving away any edges. If the NWA wants me back, they'll have to pay the price, and that doesn't just mean money. I want a niche of my own, and I'm not gonna just float along and follow the



“

I've got a following. I attract people. The fans love me; they just don't know it.

”



Dangerously brought The Samoan Swat Team to the NWA (above), but they dumped him (he says he dumped them) when they failed to win the World tag team belts. Paul E. earned the wrath of fellow managers like Paul Ellering (below).



rules. Besides, right now I'm out scouting a few teams. I'm looking for that one lucky team that's gonna keep my name up in lights.

Q: It's hard to believe that any team can put up with you for long. Your interference always turns out to be detrimental. You're always trying to steal the spotlight. Let's face it, when you get on TV, you usually talk about yourself, not your teams. And when you were getting ready for the matches against Cornette, you all but ignored the Swats.

A: You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink. I take care of myself and let everything else fall into place. And you're forgetting one thing: I'm a star. Say what you want, but people know the name Paul E. Dangerously. I'm just the kind of guy they can't forget. □

By Bob Smith

WRESTLING ERIC EMBRY in Dallas' famed wrestling mecca, The Sportatorium, is never an easy task. It is the equivalent, in fact, of what it was once like to wrestle a Von Erich in the same building. The noise is deafening at the start and gets even worse. It energizes the fan favorite and weakens opponents.

USWA champion Jerry Lawler knows what that's all about. Several of his wars against Kerry Von Erich took place in The Sportatorium. Over the course of the feud, Lawler gained a reputation as the most hated man in Texas.

But there was more to the fans' hatred than the fact that Lawler was wrestling a beloved Von Erich. Lawler is the "King of Memphis," home of the CWA. And over the past year, the war between the CWA and USWA has grown to epic proportions. Because of Lawler's often devious actions, this feud has captured the fans' imaginations.

Von Erich, however, is no longer the "King of Texas." It is a title he has passed down, perhaps unwillingly, to Embry, the USWA Texas champ who saved Texas wrestling from the evil Tojo Yamamoto and Gen. Skandor Akbar. There is no greater hero in the Lone Star State than Eric Embry.

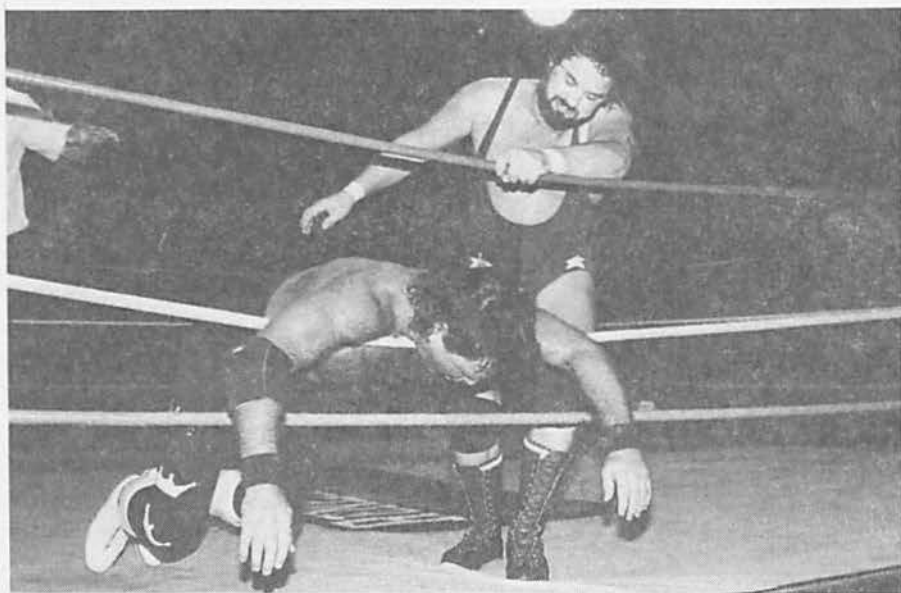
So you can imagine what happened when the King of Texas took on his royal rival from Memphis.

It was a royal war.

"Unbelievable!" commented Percy Pringle, one of the lumberjacks for a Lawler-Embry match at The Sportatorium. "It was total bedlam. I've never seen the place in such an uproar."

Credit Lawler, then, for surviving the bedlam, although in somewhat controversial fashion.

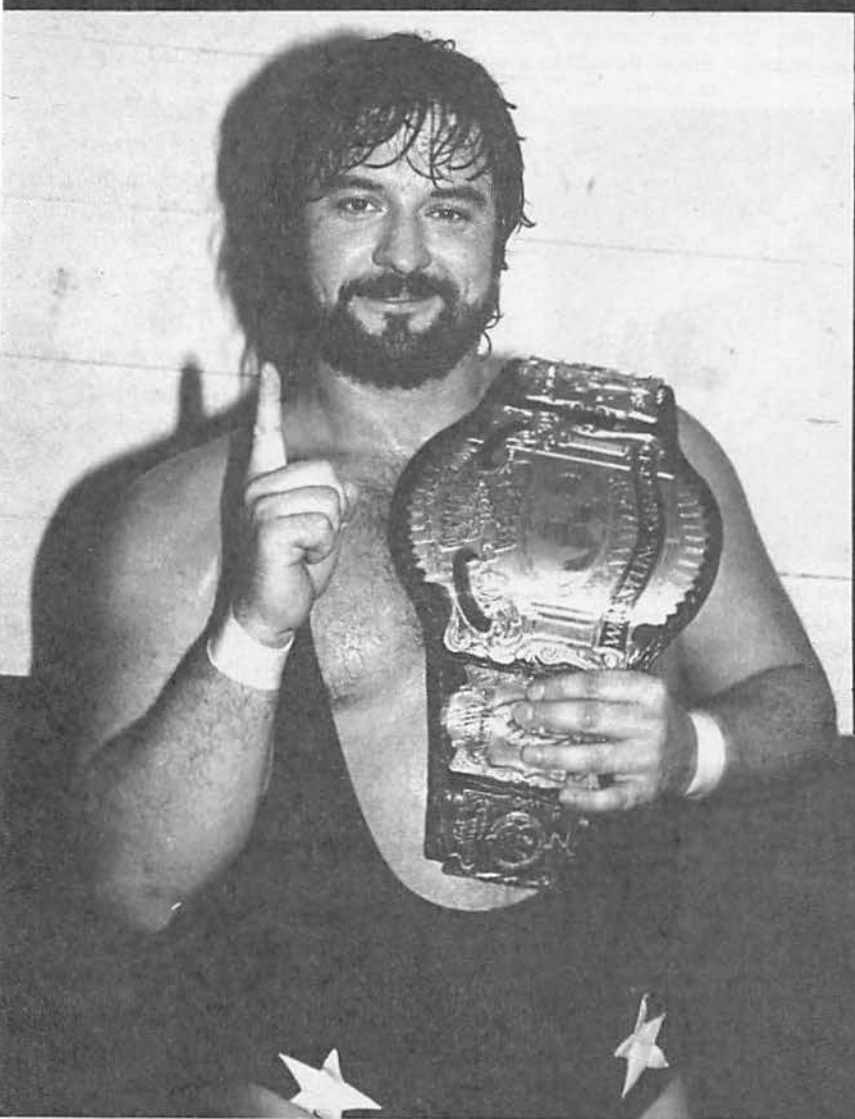
"He did it," an angry Embry said



Eric Embry attacks Jerry Lawler on the ropes. Lawler may be the USWA champion, but when they wrestle in Texas, Embry has the fans on his side.

Lawler vs. Embry:

THE KING OF MEMPHIS VS. THE KING OF TEXAS



afterward, "but he's the damn luckiest Tennessean I've ever seen."

That was apparent to most fans and media representatives in The Sportatorium, but not apparent to referee Tony Falk, who has presided over several of these shattering Memphis-Texas shindigs of shock and shame.

Embry was dominating the match when Gary Young and Sheik Braddock came to ringside and distracted the lumberjacks and referee Tony Falk. This gave Lawler a chance to flee from the ring, but he was stopped and trapped by Billy Travis. Embry threw a punch at Lawler, who ducked. Travis was struck instead, and Embry and Lawler continued to brawl. Then Travis picked up a chair to hit Lawler, but Lawler ducked again and Embry was knocked unconscious.

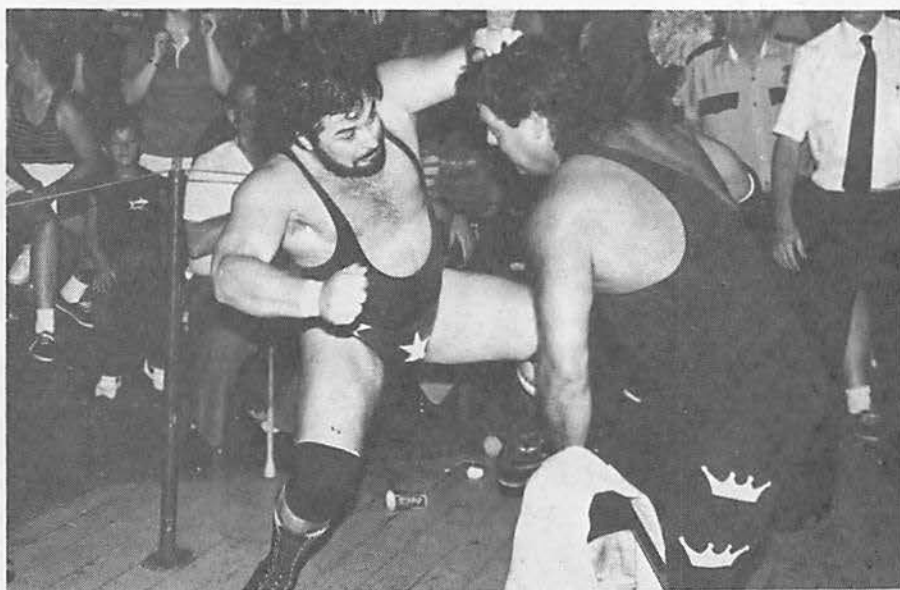
That enabled Lawler to easily roll Embry into the ring for the pin. Falk, who was busy trying to break up a fight between the lumberjacks and Braddock and Young, turned his attention back to Lawler and

USWA champion Jerry Lawler is the most popular wrestler in Memphis; USWA Texas champion Eric Embry is the most popular wrestler in Texas. When they clashed, it wasn't just an ordinary wrestling match: It was King vs. King for a prize much larger than pride

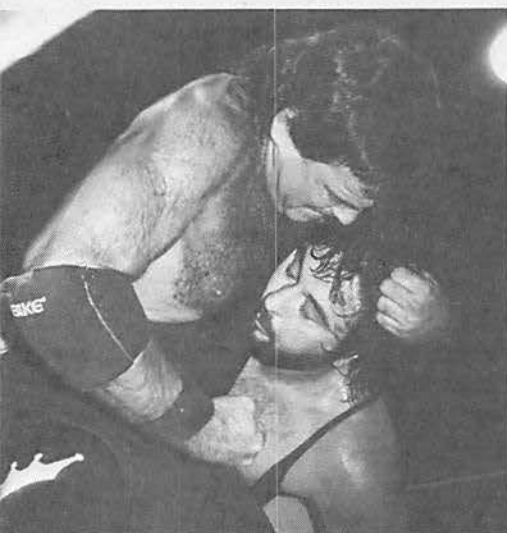
Embry, and made the three-count.

Lawler was fortunate not to get disqualified for Braddock and Young's interference, or even for leaving the ring. If that had happened, he would have been stripped of the title, in accordance with a USWA rules clarification that was made after another Lawler-Embry match.

When Embry defeated P.Y. Chu-Hi in early August and World Class became the United States Wrestling Association, not all of World Class' rules went along with the package. "There were some legal problems that weren't cleared up," USWA



Lawler holds Embry for a few punches (left). The combatants battle outside the ring (above). On one occasion, Embry thought he'd won the title, but it was returned to Lawler.



President Max Andrews said, "and one problem concerned the rules. Not everything was in place, although not everybody knew it."

In other words, the rule that allowed titles to change hands on disqualifications was not in effect in the USWA. Not, at least, until after Embry won by disqualification over Lawler on September 1 at The Sportatorium. Embry, thinking he had won the title, returned to the dressing room triumphant.

"The rude awakening," Embry recalled, "occurred a little later when they came back and took the belt away. I didn't know we were playing under a new set of rules."

Or a set of rules that hadn't been updated. Immediately following the match, USWA officials implemented the disqualification rule.

"I didn't even know what was



Embry is about to ram Lawler's head into the ringpost (above). Embry locks "The King" in an abdominal stretch (below). Each man is the most popular wrestler in his home territory, and that makes the rivalry even more intense.



going on," Lawler said. "I assumed that I'd lost my title. If I had known that we were playing under a different set of rules, I might have changed my strategy."

"Yeah," Embry retorted, "he might have fought like a man."

Lawler, however, has used every ounce of energy and manhood in his body in his matches against Embry. Although Lawler's methods haven't always been legal, they have been consistent with the lengths a wrestler will often go to in order to survive a war against a tough opponent in a difficult arena.

"Don't ever let anybody tell you that wrestling here is easy," Lawler said. "This place generates some serious noise and the people are *wrestling* fans. They come to root for their favorites, and they mean business."

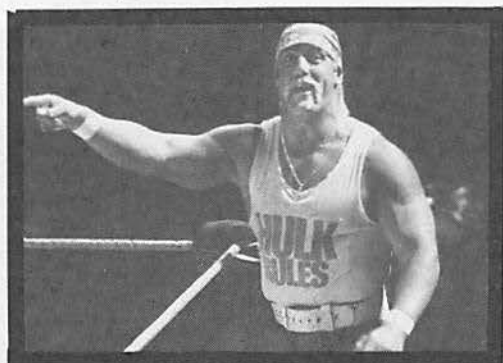
So Lawler must try to neutralize the advantage Embry carries into the ring. He must also try to protect a title he had defended since last December. And, on top of that, there is regional pride: Texas vs. Memphis. The pride of the USWA vs. the pride of the CWA, who just happens to be the USWA champion.

There is much at stake for Lawler and Embry in a feud that figures to be fought for some time to come. □

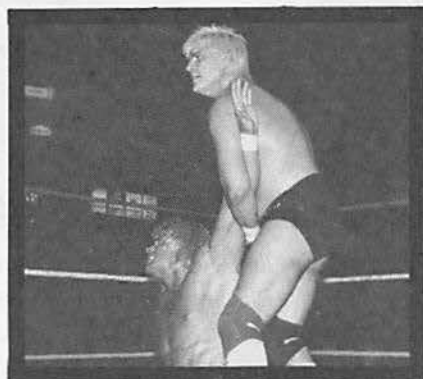
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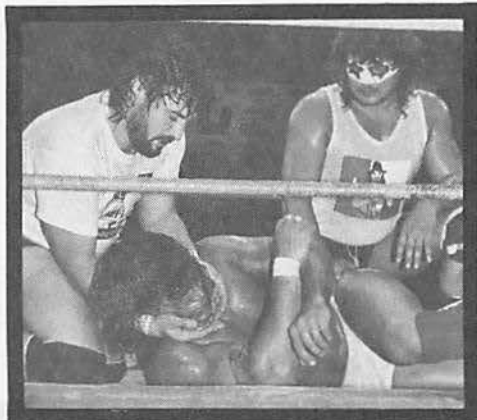
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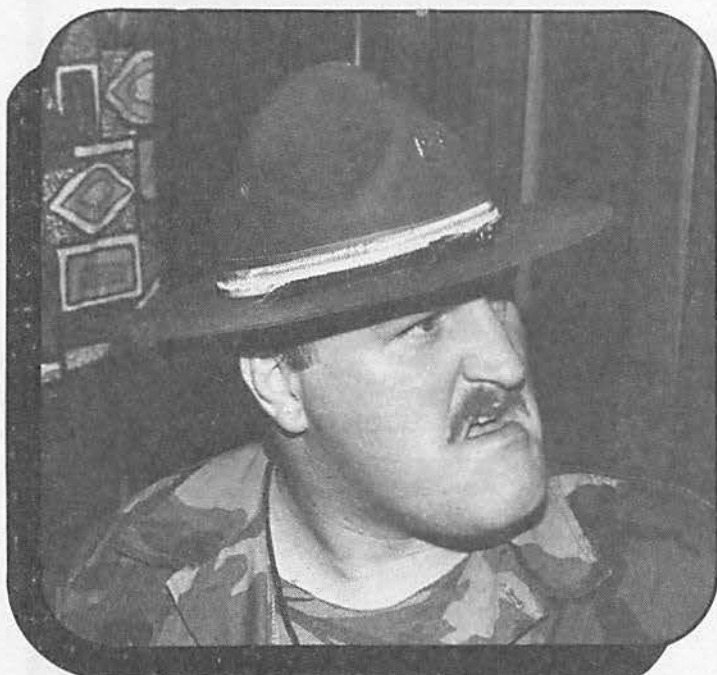
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The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off ... One on One

ONE ON ONE



"You're on my team now and you're going to do things my way! I won't put up with any of your guff. As long as I'm captain, I call the shots."

—Sgt. Slaughter

SGT. SLAUGHTER AND Col. DeBeers have never liked each other; that's no secret. The Sarge represents all that is good about America, while the South African DeBeers has used the wrestling ring to spread his creed of hatred. Their messages are so disparate that any feud between them is almost inevitable.

Their current dispute began when teams were chosen for the AWA's new Team Challenge Series. The squads were chosen at random, meaning that fan favorites and rulebreakers could end up on the same side. That's exactly what happened when DeBeers was selected for "America's Team," captained by Slaughter.

Because he is so violently opposed to Slaughter's goals, DeBeers refused to wrestle for Slaughter's team, instead requesting a trade to Larry Zbyszko's "Living Legends." The Colonel also demanded a recount, believing that there must have been some mistake in the selection process.

For his part, Sarge isn't too happy about having the South African on his team, but he's willing to abide by the rules. He says he'll be the only one in charge and treat the Colonel like a buck private.

Soon before the Challenge Series kicked off, we asked Slaughter and DeBeers to debate. At first, they refused, but eventually agreed to have this charged conversation ... "One On One."

SGT. SLAUGHTER:

You disgust me, you South African maggot! You agreed to participate in this Team Challenge Series and now you're not even man enough to wrestle on the team you were chosen for. What's your problem?

COL. DeBEERS:

My problem was allowing myself to be hoodwinked by you and your co-conspirators, Slaughter. This whole system was rigged in your favor. You and your kind don't understand or appreciate what I'm trying to accomplish in this sport.

SS: I understand perfectly well where you're coming from, DeBeers. That's why it's going to be such a pleasure having you on "America's Team." You think the South African army was tough, wait till I put you through the paces. In

fact, I believe I'll have the authority to strip you of your rank and make you a mere private! How does that sound, DeBeers?

CD: Listen, Slaughter, you can't threaten me! How dare you even suggest that my commission in the proud South African army is in danger. Why, if our armed forces were even just half the size of America's, we'd wipe you off the face of the earth. What a pleasure that would be!

SS: Don't make me laugh, Bozo. Let's get back to the point. Why are you afraid to wrestle on my team?

CD: How can I team with a man I don't agree with? What do I have against your enemies? Most of them are my friends.

SS: That's the whole idea of the Challenge Series, you lamebrain. At one point or another we'll all

N ONE



"You can't bully me around, Slaughter! I only take orders from my South African superiors, not from some lowly American sergeant."

—Col. DeBeers

be battling our allies, and siding with our sworn enemies. Having you on my team isn't going to be a picnic, but that's the way it is, and I intend to play by the rules.

CD: If that's your attitude, then I demand a trade immediately to Larry Zbyszko's "Living Legends." Zbyszko is one of the few Americans I have any respect for. He understands the way things ought to be in this country. For example, your problem with the . . .

SS: Can it, DeBeers! I don't want to hear any of that bullthrow you call political opinion. Best thing the AWA ever did was when they banned you from talking on television . . .

CD: . . . thereby denying me the right of free speech you hold so dear in this country. You people are the worst hypocrites the world has

ever seen. There's another reason I cannot be a member of the so-called America's Team. I'd be better off starting my own team, "South Africa's Team." You can be sure my teammates would be proud, strong men, unlike that particularly detestable specimen named Derrick Dukes.

SS: Oh, you mean the young man who's been humiliating you at arenas all across the land. Fine, fine boy. I'd like to have him on my squad.

CD: Imagine that! Me and Dukes on the same team. I'd be too busy trying to break his neck to worry about wrestling our opponents. Too bad he has the same surname as David Dukes. Now there's a real American! He'll solve your country's problems if you give him the chance.

SS: Boring me with politics again.

Look, DeBeers, what it all comes down to is this: You're on my team now and you're going to do things my way! You'll follow my orders and no one else's. I won't put up with any of your guff. As long as I'm the captain, I call the shots. Got it?

CD: You can't bully me around, Slaughter! I only take orders from my South African superiors, not from some lowly American sergeant. It's a matter of honor, but, of course, you know nothing of real honor. The Sgt. Slaughter of 10 years ago was an admirable man, I must admit. But somewhere along the way you lost your integrity and started befriending animals like Jimmy Snuka and his ilk. That was your downfall.

SS: Wrong! What happened was that I saw the light after so many years. Even you will hopefully see that light someday, DeBeers. Until then, you're just the lowlife maggot I've always thought you were.

CD: That does it! If I am not traded to Zbyszko's team within 48 hours, I'll bring suit against you and the whole corrupt AWA establishment. I'll have [AWA President] Joe Blanchard fired, if that's what it takes. What a worthless official he is, allowing this Challenge Series to be structured in such a way.

SS: First of all, you're too chicken to sue me or anybody else, and you know it. Besides, any court in the land would throw out that suit. And second of all, what makes you so sure that Zbyszko will give you free reign? He's a strong-minded individual and the World champion. He wants even tighter control over his team than I do. You'll just be a foot soldier in his army.

CD: That nonsense is slander against a great champion and a good friend. I warn you, Slaughter, Zbyszko and I will soon be teammates. The two of us together will destroy you and demolish your team. The day is coming when the name of Sgt. Slaughter will evoke nothing more than pity and laughter. I will be responsible for that day. Start saying your prayers, Slaughter, there isn't much time left. □

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The December 1988 edition of *The Wrestler* was a collectors' dream! It included a dynamic eight-page FULL-COLOR section featuring "The Superstars Of A Super Summer" competing in some of 1988's greatest cards and matches! Included in this exciting full-color section: Hulk Hogan, Sting, Randy Savage, Lex Luger, Rick Rude, The Ultimate Warrior, Jerry Lawler, Ric Flair, Hacksaw Duggan, The Fantastics, Dusty Rhodes, Ted DiBiase, Barry Windham, The Honky Tonk Man, and Nikita Koloff! Also included in this magnificent special issue is a full analysis of the summer's top action, plus all the regular *Wrestler* stories and features. This issue was a newsstand sellout, but we have a limited number of back issues available for the collectors' bargain price of only \$5.00 each. Don't be disappointed—order yours today!

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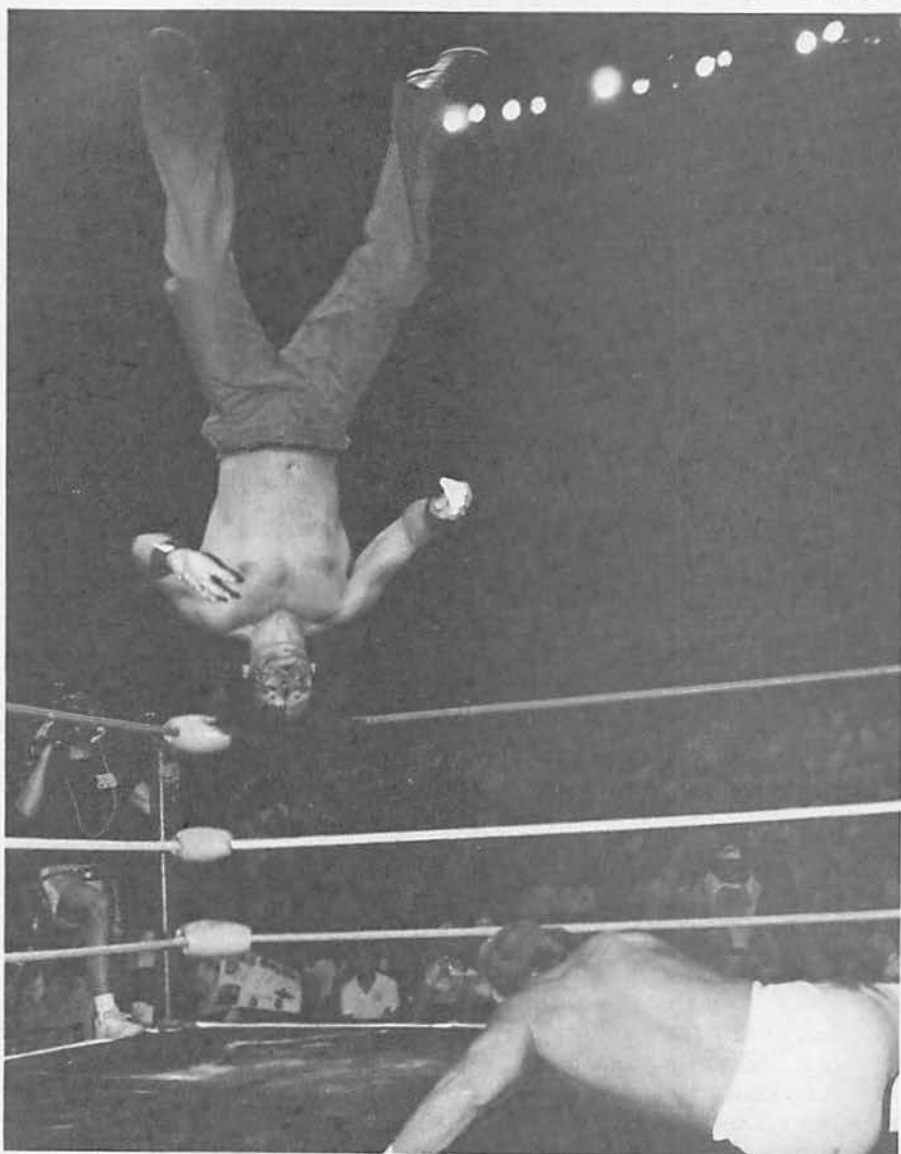
(Continued from page 7)

At the rate the NWA is going, I don't see how they can expect to be called "the major league of professional wrestling." Maybe the WWF does use some gimmicks, but at least they have their act together.

STEVEN NARDI
West Berlin, NJ

Great Muta, Sting, Lex Luger, The Road Warriors, The Samoan Swat Team, The Midnight Express, and The Freebirds. That's a talent roster that any federation would love to have.

Maybe the WWF does draw bigger crowds and more attention, but there's no reason why two great federations



The Great Muta executes a breathtaking backflip on Sting. Reader Byron Lassin would put the NWA's talent roster up against the WWF's anytime.

Lately, a lot of people have said a lot of bad things about the NWA. Well, I'd like to try and support the NWA without putting down the WWF. Although many of the NWA's top stars have left the federation, their talent roster is still outstanding and includes Ric Flair, Terry Funk, The

can't survive side by side. Maybe if people would stop comparing the NWA to the WWF, and take them on their own merits, they'd realize that we're lucky to have them both.

BYRON LASSIN
Lancaster, PA

(Continued on page 50)

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 48)

MATT'S DIET

I've been reading with interest about Matt Brock's cholesterol problems ("Plain Speaking," November 1989) and would like to pass along this suggestion to Matt: There's no reason to cut anything out of your diet. Just keep everything in moderation. You don't have to eat carrot sticks and drink Evian water for lunch every day! Just don't eat half-pound hamburgers and french fries.

MONICA REARDON
Los Angeles

Who cares about Matt Brock's cholesterol problems? If the man can't work, find a replacement. If he can work, just tell him to write about wrestling, not his health problems. We all have problems. Brock's no different.

RUSSELL TATE
Cedar Rapids, IA

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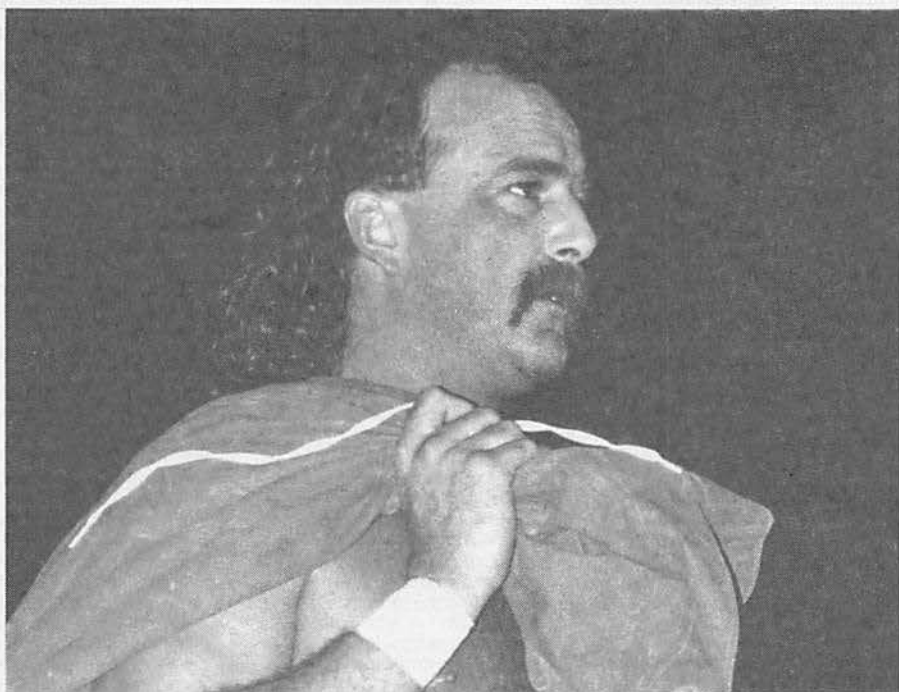
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Despite his recent legal troubles, Jake "The Snake" Roberts is back in the ring. Many fans are sticking by Jake because they don't believe he did anything wrong.

Seems to me as if Matt Brock's problem is high blood pressure, not high cholesterol. You can just sense by reading his columns that he's a very excitable person. Calm down, Matt, and you'll live a much longer life. Enjoy wrestling. It's a great sport, and you're lucky to be where you are.

JEFF BLUM
Bangor, ME

In only one month, Bill Apter proved that he's no Matt Brock. There's only one Matt. Keep healthy! Long may you write!

EVA MARTIN
Point Pleasant, WV

JAKE'S PLIGHT

I was sorry to read about Jake Roberts' problems in the November 1989 issue ("Jake Roberts Faces Jail Term"). In my opinion, something is a little strange about this whole case. Why would Jake attack a man half his size unless there was a reason? I just can't imagine that Roberts would have beaten up somebody just for the heck of it.

It's unfortunate that we'll never know the whole truth behind this case. Maybe both men were drunk, in which case neither should have been driving. In any event, it sounds like nobody is giving a completely straight story. I just hope that Jake's career isn't ruined by this unfortunate incident.

ANTHONY FARINA
Newark, DE

It didn't take Jake Roberts long to get back in the ring, did it? I don't know what's going on with his court case, but it seems as if Jake is back in action and ready to put the past behind him. If somebody was thrown into jail every time there was a fight, half the country would be in jail. Jake only got into trouble because he's a big celebrity, and that's unfortunate. Now that he's back, I hope he can stay out of trouble.

BOB HARRING
Bloomington, MN

[Editor's note: At press time, Roberts' case was under appeal. Roberts is awaiting a hearing and has hired legal counsel.] ☐

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June 1982/COLOR PINUP: Nick Bockwinkel, Adonis & Ventura, Snuka, Patera, Flair.

August 1982/COLOR PINUP: Dino Bravo, Steamboat & Rich, Andre, Martel, Piper, Blaszczak.

January 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ken Patera, Rick Steamboat, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski, Rhodes vs. Garvin, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham, Mil Mascaras, Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR PINUP: Cowboy Bob Orton, Rick Martel, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

July 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Koloff, Tommy Rich, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

August 1983/COLOR PINUP: Larry Zbyszko, Roddy Piper, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

October 1983/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog, Tommy Rich, Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper, Harley Race, Santana, Mascaras, Ellerling, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel, Dusty Rhodes, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race, Rick Martel, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Sunshine, Greg Valentine, Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

June 1984/COLOR PINUP: Dick Slater, Ted DiBiase, Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellerling, Jimmy Valiant, J.Y.D., Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR PINUP: Stan Hansen, Jerry Lawler, Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack, Kerry Von Erich, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel, Sgt. Slaughter, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana, Road Warriors, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A., Rick Martel, Hogan, Backlund, Ellerling.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin, Jimmy Snuka, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham, Dusty Rhodes, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams, Rick Steamboat, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage, Ric Flair, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura, Great American Bash, Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

January 1986/COLOR PINUP: Hack-saw Duggan, Hulk Hogan, T.A., Brody.

February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff, Mike Von Erich, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair, Wendi Richter, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat, Road Warriors, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich, Hulk Hogan, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy, R & R Express, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes, Randy Savage, Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd, Nikita Koloff, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll, British Bulldogs, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds, Roddy Piper, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

February 1987/COLOR PINUP: Savage & Elizabeth, UWF Tournament, T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

April 1987/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger, Dusty & Nikita, DiBiase, DeBeers, Dingo, WWF Housecleaning.

May 1987/COLOR PINUP: Steve Williams, Andre-Hogan, UWF Tourney, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

June 1987/COLOR PINUP: Hulk Hogan, Magnum T.A., Can-Am's, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

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August 1987/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Precious, Hogan-Andre, Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

October 1987/COLOR PINUP: Ted DiBiase, Ric Flair, Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

November 1987/COLOR PINUP: George Steele, Nikita Koloff, Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

January 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Road Warriors, Ted DiBiase, Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

February 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin, Randy Savage, Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1988/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel, Lex Luger, Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

May 1988/COLOR PINUP: Sting, Andre, Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

June 1988/COLOR PINUP: Tully Blanchard, Hulk Hogan, Muraco, Perez, Rockers, Bunkhouse Stampede.

July 1988/COLOR PINUP: Curt Hennig, Hogan vs. Andre, Express vs. Rockers, Beefcake, Perez, Rotundo-Sting.

August 1988/COLOR PINUP: Al Perez, Savage & Hogan, Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerry Von Erich.

October 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ultimate Warrior, Sting, Savage, Lawler, Williams, Steamboat, Varsity Club.

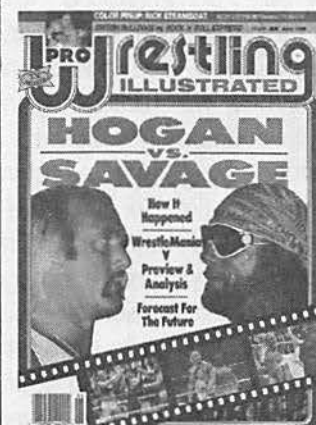
November 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Midnight Express, Hogan, Rhodes, Express, Powers of Pain.

December 1988/COLOR PINUP: Hack-saw Duggan, Four Horsemen, Brody, Bigelow, Garvin, Precious.

January 1989/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham, Hogan-Savage-Elizabeth, Warriors, Sting.

February 1989/COLOR PINUP: Jake Roberts, Luger, Hogan-Savage, Kevin Von, Beefcake-Bass.

April 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steiner, Savage, Dangerously, Muraco, Turner, Powers.



JUNE 1989

June 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat, Hogan vs. Savage, Warriors, Zbyszko, Rhodes.

July 1989/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper, Steamboat, Hogan, Paul E., Dream Tournament, Studd, Muraco.

August 1989/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger, Hogan, Ultimate, Steamboat-Flair, Road Warriors, Rhodes.

October 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Rude, Luger vs. Hogan, Snuka, Sting, Lawler vs. Perez, Page.

November 1989/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair, Rhodes, Steiner, Luger vs. Steamboat, Ultimate, Fuller-Jarrett.

December 1989/COLOR PINUP: Jimmy Snuka, Luger, Vicious, Muta, Sting, Beefcake & Hogan, Tully & Arn.

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THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 16)

wrestling fans.

It could be worse. If the same family was at Fall Brawl '89, it could have witnessed an actual murder attempt when Terry Funk charged into the ring and tried to suffocate NWA champion Ric Flair with a plastic bag. Funk fell a few seconds short of completing his gruesome task; wrestler Brian Pillman administered mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to Flair, who was rushed to a nearby hospital.

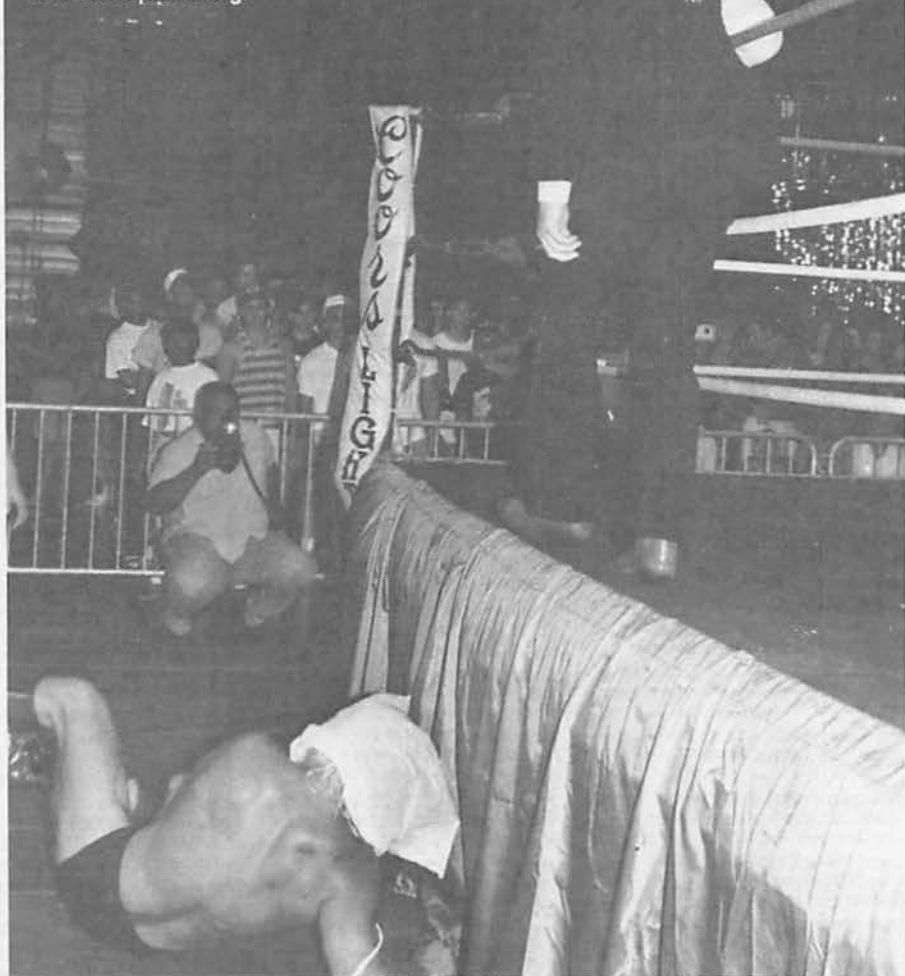
"While we realize wrestling is an occasionally violent sport," conceded NWA Executive Vice President Jim Herd, "there is never cause for attempted murder." Right, Jim—if you're not going to get it right and actually kill someone, why bother in the first place?

There may be something constructive to this senseless violence. Dad could have used the incident to illustrate the danger of plastic bags to his children. Now, if Abdullah the Butcher would start drinking drain cleaner...

What will be the next diabolic instrument of destruction harnessed by some guileless marauder? Yellow fog? The Great Muta, on everyone's 10 Best list these days, has decided skill is not enough to thrive in today's wrestling jungle. Sources have confirmed that Muta has developed a deadly strain of yellow fog (20 times more potent than the garden-variety green fog wrestling fans are accustomed to seeing) and is spewing it at opponents like Old Faithful.

"In concentrated doses, yellow fog can be fatal," confirmed Dr. Daryn Eller, a leading toxicologist. "The lab is still trying to identify all the different poisonous elements." *All the different poisonous elements!* I'm sure Sting can rest easier knowing Muta is walking around with a mouthful of nox-

Even the most hardened fans were shocked when Terry Funk tried to suffocate Ric Flair with a plastic bag.



ious gas.

The Ultimate Weapon, which I exclusively reported months ago in its research and development stage, has quietly died. Dusty Rhodes' bionic Jelly Roll proved too costly to human life and will not be pursued.

I'm joking, of course, about Dusty, but what sordid state of affairs has wrestling been reduced to that its practitioners now rely on life-threatening foreign objects to succeed? What happened to the good old-fashioned pencil? I get misty-eyed just thinking about the infamous unattributed "foreign object" used so stealthily, skillfully, and sadistically by The Sheik and Pampero Firpo, among oth-

ers. Hell, when Freddie Blassie wanted to make his point, he used his teeth: simple, straightforward, and effective. No non-recyclable kitchen bags, no ozone-eating yellow fog. Besides being cowards, today's weapon-wielding wrestlers are environmental catastrophes to boot!

Can it be long before each of those \$18 wrestling tickets comes with a warning: The following matches may be hazardous to your health. Dad, do your family a favor: Take 'em to *Lethal Weapon II*—it's a lot less violent and a helluva lot safer.

Or, better yet, write to your local promoter and pressure him into cleaning up his act. □

Wrestling

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 May 1980/Koloff-Anderson, Brody-Spoiler, Graham, Andre.
 October 1980/Hogan, Flair, Wrestling II, Super D.
 January 1981/Morales-Fuji, Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn.
 June 1981/Morales-Khan, Lawler, Slater, Piper.
 September 1981/Backlund-Mosca, Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.
 November 1981/Rhodes-DiBiase, Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.
 December 1981/Muraco-Morales, Patera, Steele, Andre.
 March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.
 April 1982/Spoiler, Idol-Hayes, Morales, Super D, Ladd.
 May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.
 June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.
 July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.
 August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.
 October 1982/Funk-Abdullah, Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.
 November 1982/Piper, Abdullah, Saito, Von Erich, Mascaras.
 December 1982/Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair, Albano, Humberdink.
 January 1983/Rich, McDaniel-Valentine, Patera, Brisco, Bockwinkel.
 February 1983/Flair-Race, Morales-Rose, Patera, Bravo, Spoiler.
 March 1983/Flair-Bass, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat, Patera.
 April 1983/Backlund-Graham, Briscos, Rhodes, Hogan, Samoans.
 May 1983/Muraco, Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco, Von Erich.
 June 1983/Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson, Brody, Sullivan, Baba.
 July 1983/Valiant-Humberdink, Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.
 October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.
 November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody, Slater, Backlund.

December 1983/Windham-LeDuc, Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.
 January 1984/Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel, Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca.
 February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.
 March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.
 April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.
 May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!
 June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.
 July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourney.
 August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.
 September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.
 October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.
 November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars!
 December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.
 January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, Pro Wrestling USA, Valentine.
 February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.
 March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.
 April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.
 May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.
 June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A., Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.
 July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.
 August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.
 September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.
 October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.

November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.
 December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.
 January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.
 February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.
 March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.
 April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.
 May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.
 June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.
 July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Sheepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.
 August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourney, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.
 September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Luger, Dundee, UWF tourney.
 October 1986/Orndorff, Rude-Brody, Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams.
 November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.
 December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourney.
 January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.
 February 1987/Road Warriors, Savage, Windham & Luger, 1987 Datebook.
 March 1987/Kamala-Hogan, Starrcade '86, Atlas, Williams, Tatum.
 April 1987/1986 in Pictures, Kevin Von Flair, Rich, Hennig-Bockwinkel.
 May 1987/Nikita-Flair, Bulldogs, Albano's career, Snuka-DeBeers, Taylor.
 June 1987/Hogan-Andre, Hall, Parsons, Garvin, WWF title history.
 July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston.
 August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup.
 September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows.
 October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Bockwinkel, Western States tourney.

November 1987/Bash, Honky Tonk, Hart, Sheepherders, Condrey.
 December 1987/Grappling Ghouls, Hogan-Andre, Luger-Nikita, Boesch card.
 January 1988/Honky Tonk, Garvin, T.A. career, Arcidi, Hogan.
 February 1988/Rhodes, Strike Force, Rich-Adonis, Hyatt, 1988 datebook.
 March 1988/Starrcade, Survivor Series, Simpson, Hennig, Zbyszko.
 April 1988/1987 in Pictures, Tully & Arn, DiBiase, Kerry, Orton.
 May 1988/Hawk-Flair, Andre-Hogan, Dangerously, Duggan, Mike George.
 June 1988/Luger-Tully, DiBiase, Adams, NWA New York invasion.
 July 1988/Savage wins WWF tourney, Rockers-Express, Hayes, Dusty-Rider.
 August 1988/Luger and Sting win Crockett Cup, Savage-DiBiase, Nasty Boys, Ultimate Warrior.
 September 1988/Predictions Through 1998, Williams, Rhodes, Bad Company, greatest Garden matches.
 October 1988/Midnight Rockers, Sting, Taylor, Koloff, Hot Young Lions.
 November 1988/R&R Express, Honky Tonk, Von Erichs, Great American Bash.
 December 1988/Warriors, Samoan SWAT Team, Hart, Andre, Presidential Wrestlers.
 January 1989/Jake-Cheryl-Rude, Sting, Lawler, Flair, Savage's career.
 February 1989/The Champions in '89, Duggan, Roberts, 1989 datebook.
 April 1989/Starrcade '88, Savage-Hogan, Funk-Mulligan, Heenan, Abdullah.
 May 1989/Royal Rumble, WrestleMania, Rhodes, Lawler, Horsemen.
 June 1989/Chi-Town Rumble, Hogan-Towers, R&R Express, Rougeaus.
 July 1989/WrestleMania V, Sting, Steamboat, Martel vs. Rude, Embry.
 August 1989/Luger & Sting, Ultimate, Flair's personal photos, Bulldogs.
 September 1989/Duggan, Wrestle War, Rhodes, Flair-Steamboat, Japan.
 October 1989/Great American Bash, Piper-Ventura, Savage-Hogan.
 November 1989/Hogan's toughest matches, Snuka, Sting, Skyscrapers.

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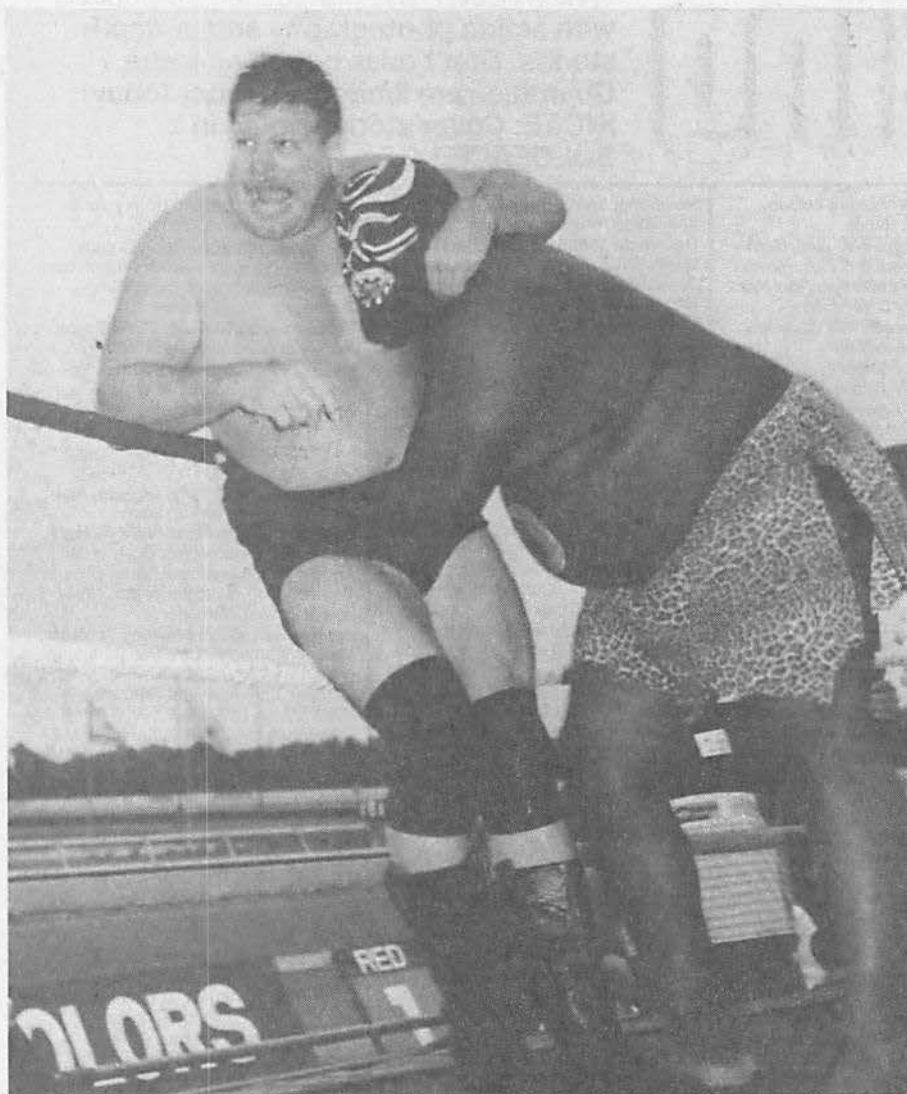
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HULK HOGAN

(Continued from page 33)



Hansen and Kamala battle on the ropes (above). The tough Texan stands up to a chop from Genichiro Tenryu (left). Hansen is one of Japan's dominant wrestlers. He'd be an extremely difficult challenge for Hogan, but he currently has no plans to wrestle in the WWF. That could change.

ley Blackburn that forced him to leave. Prior to then, Hansen was a dominant champion. He won the title from Rick Martel by submission. Rare is it that a champion is forced to give up his title because he can't stand the pain.

And it could be said that it's been a long time since Hansen wrestled in the bright spotlight of the major American arenas.

We reply that the spotlight shines just as brightly—if not brighter—in Japan.

"There's never been a braver wrestler," Bruiser Brody once said of Hansen, who often returned the compliment. "Teaming with him is an honor. There's nothing he can't do. People think he's just a brawler like me, but he's got the moves down pat. For my money, nobody in the business can match Stan."

Rare is the man that can outlast Hansen. Rare is the man that can outbrawl him or beat him in a test of strength. Hansen is the classic Texas working man: He might not have the classic athlete's body, but he's tough, strong, and determined.

He is "The Badman From Borger, Texas." Hansen has fought more wars than Hogan ever will. And there is one thing that can motivate him more than the "Hulkamaniacs" motivate Hogan: money. "I wrestle for the greenbacks," Hansen once said. "I have a wife and hungry children to feed. When I wrestle a guy, I'm thinking that he's trying to take food out of my family's mouth, and I just can't have that."

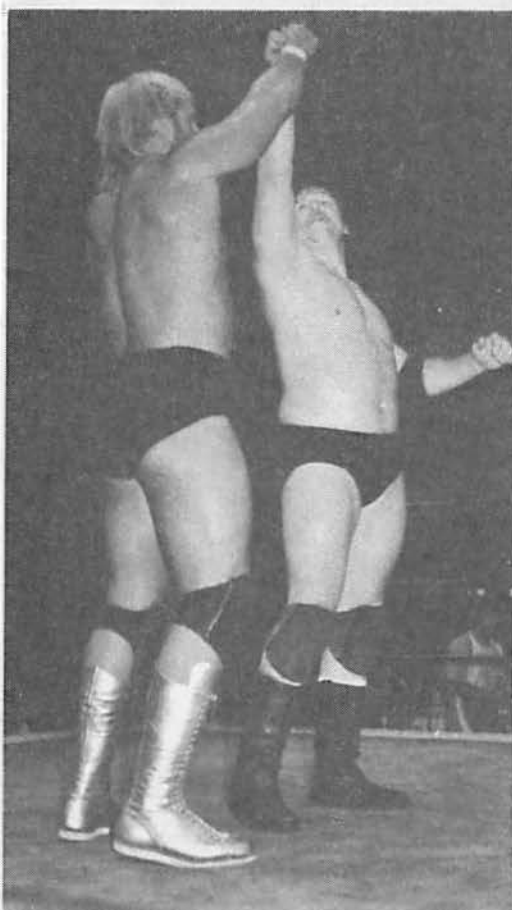
It is the singlemost decisive motivational factor in wrestling. Hansen is not driven by intangibles like revenge and pride. He is driven by tangible factors: money and survival. So, when it comes down to the final moments of a match, and both Hogan and Hansen are trying to come up with that something extra that will lead to victory, Hansen will have a reserve equal to Hogan's.

Perhaps this comment made by Hansen after his match against Kamala says it all: "Hogan?" Hansen said. "I'll wrestle Hogan. What does it pay?"

Never once did Hansen bring up the idea of how prestigious it would be to win the WWF World title. Prestige is not a Hansen factor. "Titles mean more money," Hansen has said. "I would've been right there wrestling in Denver that night if I thought I couldn't do better someplace else. But I knew I could and I have."

At all times, this tough man carries

a picture in his pocket of his beloved wife, Emma Lou, and his nine children. After all these years, he's still up there with the best in the business, and has accumulated knowledge and experience. Hansen was tough 13 years ago against Bruno Sammartino; he'd be even tougher right now against Hogan.



Hogan and Hansen raise each other's hands after the draw. It's doubtful they'll have that much respect for each other if they square off again.

Still think it can't be done? Still think Stan Hansen doesn't have the guts, skill, and determination to dethrone the "Hulkster"? Well, we might never find out. But it's certainly something to think about during the coming months while Hogan dispatches of one overmatched opponent after another.

If he only knew what was out there. If the "Hulkster" only knew that Stan Hansen is poised and ready to take his title away.

As we said, there isn't a man in the WWF that can cleanly pin Hogan. But there's a man out there. And he's waiting. ☐

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STING & FLAIR

(Continued from page 35)



Flair pulls Slater away from Muta (above). Sting armlocks Slater (right). Flair doesn't want Sting to get entangled in his war with Slater's cohort, Terry Funk.

have taken on Funk, Muta, and their buddy, Dick Slater, with a fair amount of success, but not enough. The battles are still raging, but there is no end in sight to the war.

"I'm going to take care of Terry Funk. I'm going to put the 'RF' brand into that old man's behind," Flair said. "But this is something I want to do on my own."

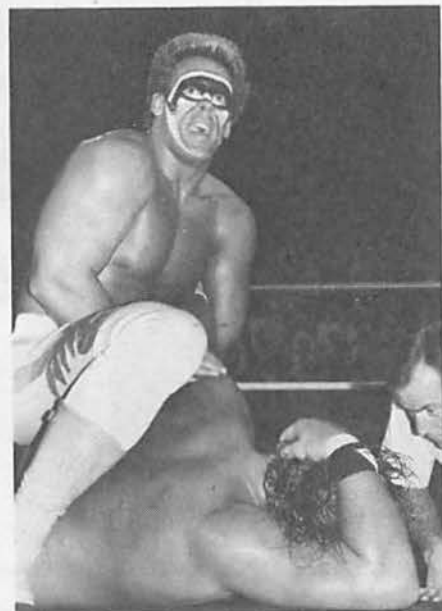
That means no Sting and no Muta. Flair wants Funk—and Funk wants Flair.

"Don't get me wrong," Flair said. "Sting is a great wrestler, and no one appreciates what he did for me with Funk and Muta more than I do, but this has to be *my* battle. I can't worry about anybody besides myself in the ring. In a tag team match, there's always somebody else that you have on your mind, both on your team and the other. I want to be in the ring with Funk—alone—and settle things with him for good."

Flair is not pleased that his battle with Funk has become Sting's. Similarly, Sting's battle with Muta has also become Flair's. But as the feud expands to include more and more wres-

ters, Flair wants to get back to basics.

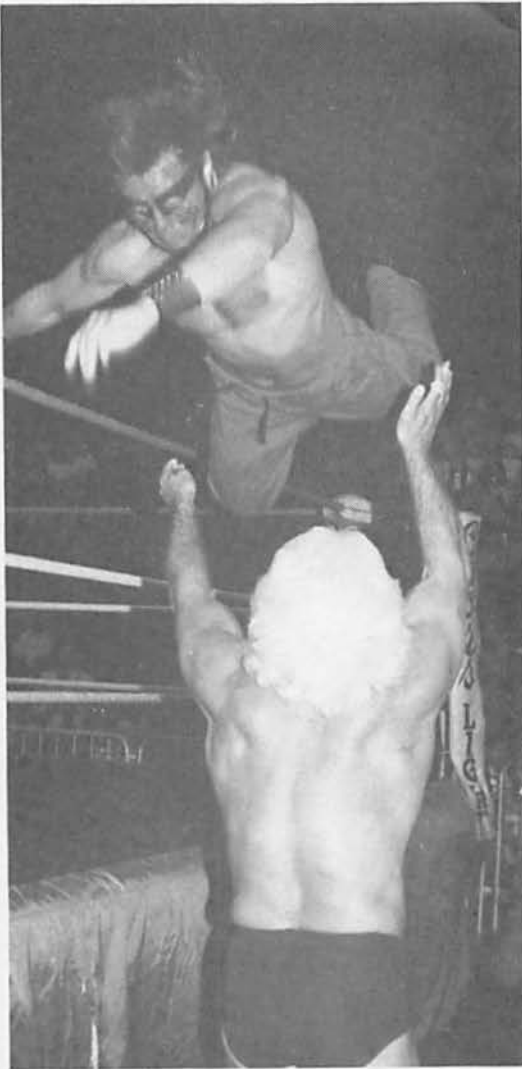
"There are just too many people involved," Flair said. "When Funk and Muta tried to end my career in Baltimore, yes, I needed some help. But right now, I don't want that help. Sting should be trying to advance his own career, not bogging himself down with grudges. *My* grudges. He's too young for that. Let him start that in a few years, after he's given himself the time he needs to try and win a championship belt of his own.



"You know, he's good enough to do it. Right now, he could be the U.S. champion. He's that good. He reminds me of myself when I was his age."

Flair sounds excited about the potential of the youthful Sting, who has emerged as a powerful and influential force in the NWA. Obviously, Sting can learn a thing or two from the champion when the two train and work out together. But in Flair's torn mind, it would be too great a sacrifice to dedicate his valuable time to someone else's cause.

"Look at the kid," the champ said. "He's young, athletic, strong, and good-looking. Sounds a lot like me, right? He's got it all, but he has to learn that wrestling is not a team sport. You're going to get attacked, and there's not always going to be someone there to save you. I might

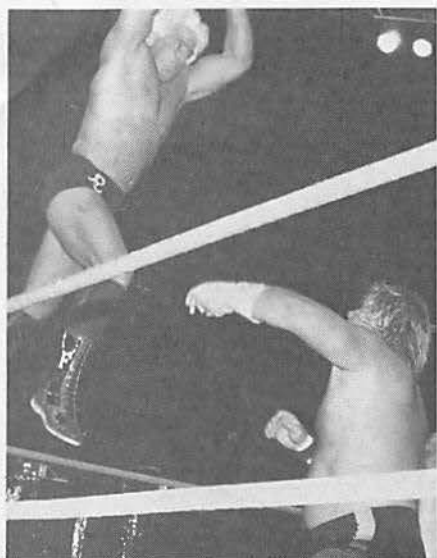


Muta pounces on Flair (above). Not only does Flair believe he's the only man to deal with Funk, he thinks Sting should be the only one to war with Muta.

have been killed by Funk and Muta, but I know where it's at, man. That's wrestling.

"Sometimes you have to take your lumps, but you're never going to get that experience unless you get in the ring with no one to count on but yourself. That's how you get to be a great champion. A six-time champion!"

Flair demonstrated a selfishly motivated brand of helping recently when he paid Funk's six-figure fine just so he could get at the former NWA World champion. Rarely have two wrestlers ever wanted to get on the mat with each other more, and Flair is doing everything he can to make it happen.



Flair attempts to level Slater with a smash from the top rope. By hurting Slater, the champion is sending a message to Funk: Watch out, you're next!

"That's what Sting needs," Flair said. "He needs to know that feeling that I have about Terry Funk. Funk has been trying to end my career for years. Not only am I not going to let him, I'm going to destroy him. I'll take that branding iron and smash him in the head with it. Then I'll hit him again for Sting before I piledrive him and break his neck."

Flair paused for a moment and regained his composure.

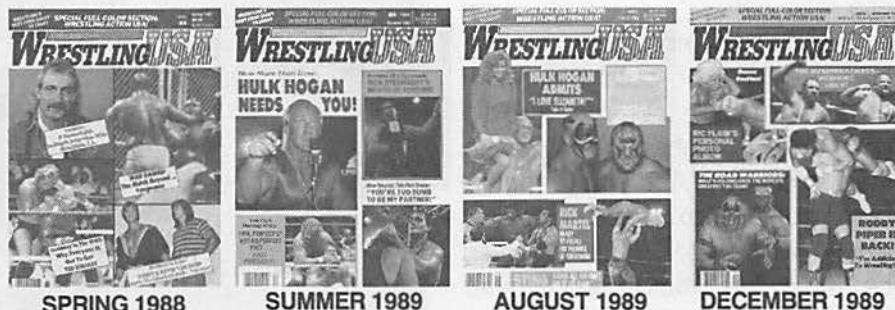
"Sorry about that," he said softly. "But that's the kind of tunnelvision Sting needs to have with someone like that Muta. He needs to be consumed with the man, to be able to get inside his head in order to beat Muta, or anybody else, in the future. Funk and me go way back. I know the way he is and what he will do. Sting just needs to get that experience. Once he does, punks like Muta won't be able to touch him."

So for now, Flair will continue to wage his battles with Sting against Funk and Muta. Still, he would like to lessen the roles of two of those participants.

"I like having him around," Flair said of Sting. "But there are just some things a man has to do by himself. This is one of them. Terry Funk almost killed me. Now maybe Sting can learn one more thing from me when I get Funk." □

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ROBERTS VS. DiBIASE

(Continued from page 37)

That was a reasonable assumption, for in early August, either Roberts' injury or an extended jail term threatened to keep him away from the ring for a long time. DiBiase was safe.

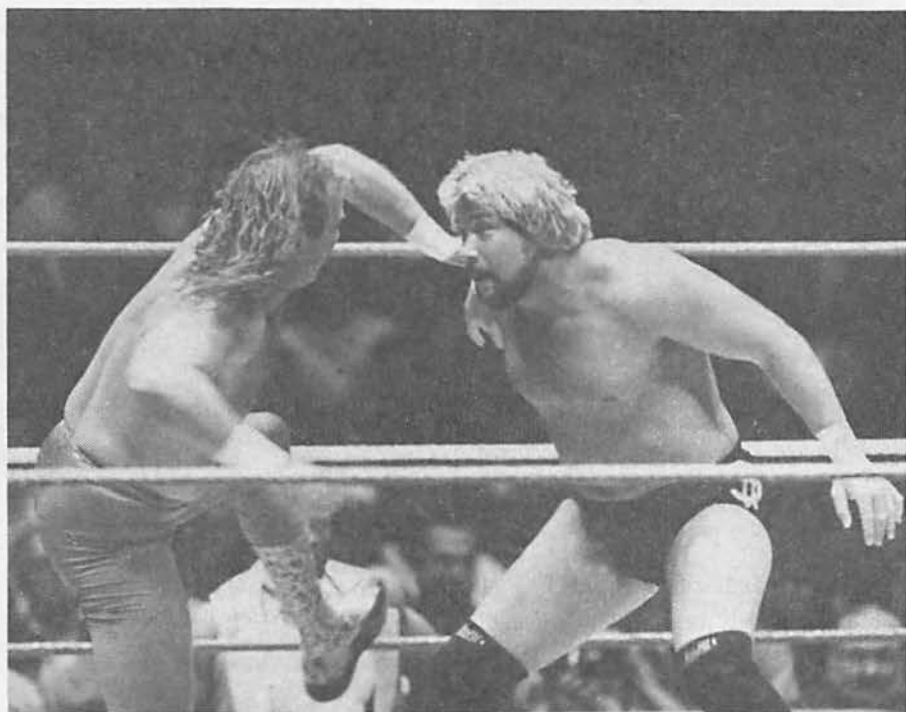
But he did not bank on the heavy supply of guts that Jake always keeps in reserve. He did not bank on Roberts' reaction to that interview. And he certainly couldn't have expected that only a few weeks later, Roberts would be right up there on Brother Love's pulpit, vowing to "risk injury, life, and imprisonment to get DiBiase."

A shaken DiBiase charged that Roberts was crazy to return. One night later, Roberts repeated his vow. Obviously, Jake meant business.

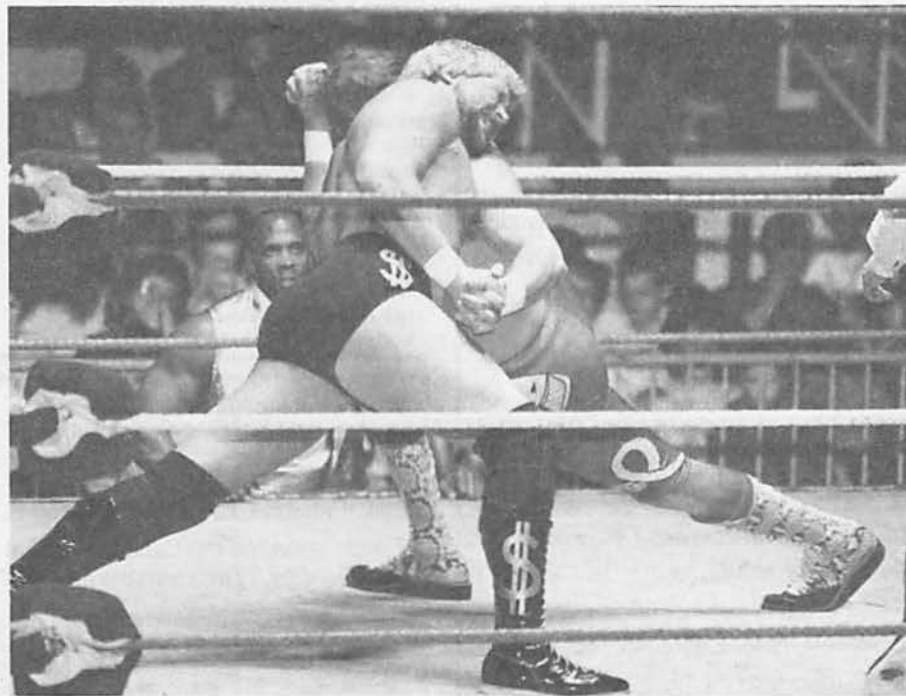
The injury remains and has not fully healed. Doctors have urged Roberts to stay out of the ring. There is still every possibility that Roberts will serve a prison term. But those concerns have been put aside. Ted DiBiase is all Roberts thinks of. Beating him to within an inch of his life is Roberts' magnificently lurid obsession.

"He walked right into the WWF offices and demanded that he and Roberts be placed on opposite teams for The Survivor Series," a WWF source said. "That's why it's Hulk Hogan, Demolition, and Jake instead of Hogan, Demolition, and Beefcake, and that's why the other team is Zeus, The Powers of Pain, and DiBiase, instead of Zeus, The Powers of Pain, and Randy Savage."

Actually, there's another reason why they're on opposite teams. Recently in Cincinnati, Zeus and DiBiase firmly aligned themselves on the same side. Zeus accompanied DiBiase to the ring for a match against Hulk Hogan. Zeus



Roberts winds up to blast DiBiase on the chin (above). The "Million-Dollar Man" and "The Snake" lock up in a test of strength (below).



constantly interfered in the match, but Hogan rallied to pin DiBiase. Afterward, Hogan slammed Zeus to the canvas and DiBiase fled to the dressing room.

On the same card, Roberts wrestled a substantially easier match against Brian Costello. Roberts pinned Costello, but in

doing so showed tremendous aggression and daring for a man whose career could be over with one wrong move—and possibly should be over already!

Roberts has made it clear. Every interview he gives revolves around DiBiase. And although he doesn't deny that DiBiase caused

the injury, he is enraged that DiBiase brags about it and claims to have ended Roberts' career. When you're a man like Jake Roberts, the decision to stop wrestling is your own. Not DiBiase's.

DiBiase, on the other hand, realizes what he has wrought. He knows that his biggest mistake was gloating about the injury he caused. In fact, there is every indication that Roberts' injury was the result of an inadvertent action in an early May match against DiBiase, and not actually caused by DiBiase. In fact, insiders claim that while the injury was caused in a match against DiBiase, it was further aggravated by The Honky Tonk Man.

So DiBiase must defend his manhood. He has been humbled by nearly every top wrestler in the WWF. When he first arrived in the federation, he was heralded as a big-money superstar with world title aspirations. The closest he came to the title was when it was illegally handed to him by Andre the Giant. He must content himself with gloating about injuries he might not have caused.

Roberts isn't merely DiBiase's obsession. He's his last shot at salvaging something out of his stay in the WWF. It is a flimsy goal, at best. DiBiase faces a situation in which Roberts is not only the better man, he has more to prove.

But there is always the risk of injury in the ring. Roberts could be taking the chance of his life by continuing his feud with DiBiase. Zeus and Virgil will always be lurking in the darkness, ready to take over when DiBiase inevitably starts to fail. Is Roberts risking too much?

Roberts has put it all on the line. DiBiase is taking one last shot at WWF glory. They are two men with nothing to lose.

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ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 18)

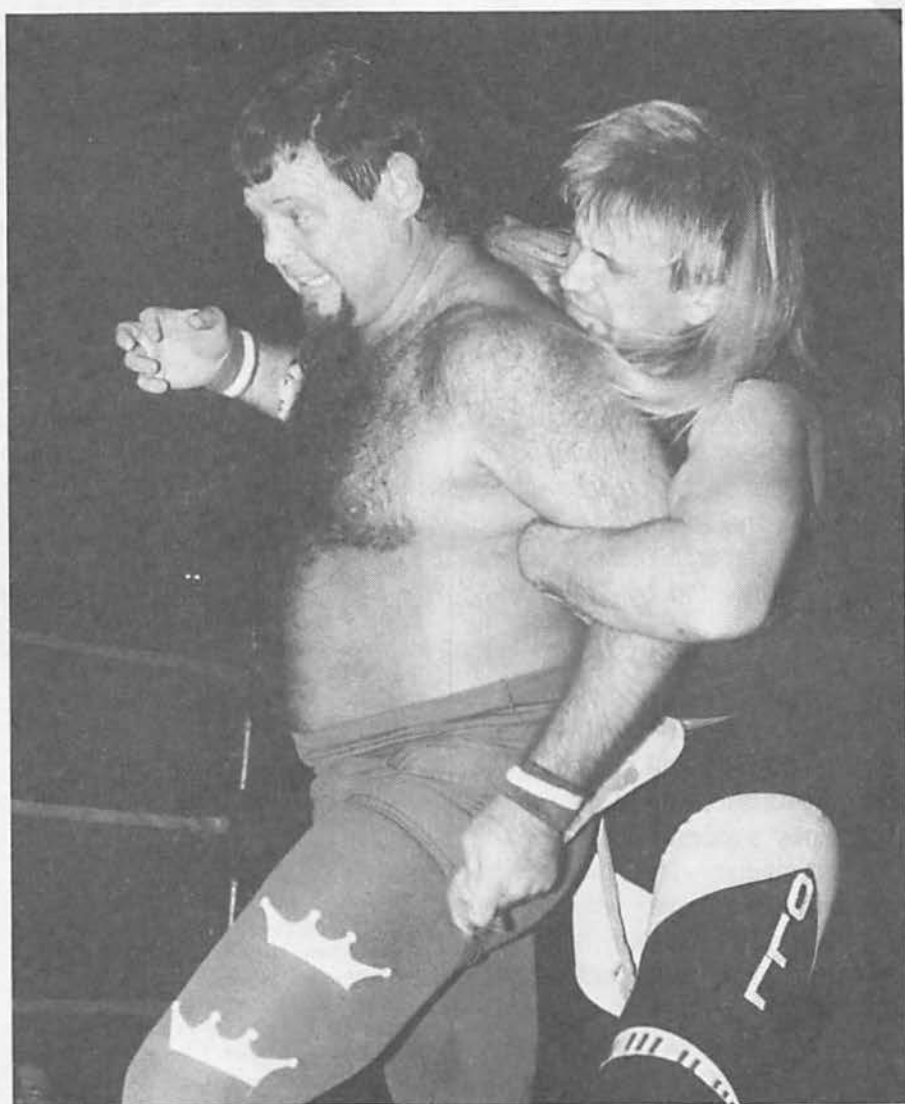
hand. Someone threw a beer in the ring. I remember looking at the puddle it made at my feet. That's when I died."

As Rick Morton would soon find out, it was a death that his partner experienced. Every bit of honor, respect, and dignity that Gibson had ever possessed had been removed, just like *that*, and it was a dead soul that stood there in an ACW ring, with warm beer ringing his boots while a fat man rained punches to his head and the crowd cursed his name.

Not far from that funeral, another was taking place. After years of towing the line, Rick Morton now talked the talk like it rarely had been talked before. "I am the Master of Disaster, the King of Pain," he spouted to horrified CWA interviewers. "I'm sick of these blowhard bad guys huffing and puffing and telling me how lucky I am to be alive. They're almost as bad as the namby-pamby, candy-butt, sugar-coated crowd darlings who can't believe I left The Rock 'n' Roll Express. The hell with them all. Just get me into the ring where I can blow some smoke and kick some butt."

And blow and kick Morton did. In no time at all, he established himself as one of the most hated grapplers in the CWA. "I loved it," he recalls. "I found the boos almost irresistible." Until after one match, a match where he was particularly gruesome in tearing apart some hapless rookie opponent, when he was confronted by a fan outside his dressing room.

"The fan was crying and asked why I was like I am, why was I so cruel and mean," Morton said, still disturbed by the memory. "This fan had saved for six months to take the trip to come and watch me wrestle and didn't understand what had happened



In his short-lived rulebreaking days, Morton grappled with Jerry Lawler. Morton regrets that he ever let his fans down. He is hearing the cheers once again as he and Gibson defend their CWA tag team title.

to me." The fan turned out to be a 13-year-old girl suffering from leukemia. "I patted the little girl's hand," Morton said, "and kissed her and cheered her up. But inside I died. I wanted to just crumple to the floor and vanish."

The next day Morton called his old teammate. "How ya doin', Bobby," he asked.

"Been better," Gibson replied. "Why don't we have dinner and talk?"

"Helluva an idea, Bobby. Helluva an idea."

And so they are back, making beautiful music together once more. Their most recent triumph, a spectacular upset of CWA tag

team champions Wildside, has catapulted the duo back into an accustomed position. "It feels great to be champions again," Morton gushed during the postmatch celebration. "I don't think I'll ever leave my partner's side again. I want this moment to last forever."

Does this signal an end to their singles careers? "What singles careers?" Gibson asked smiling. "Those two guys died. They aren't around anymore. They've gone to wrestling hell. What you see here is the old Rock 'n' Roll Express, and we're here to stay."

Who says there isn't life after death? □

DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 10)



The tag team match was a major portion of Survivor Series II in Ridgefield, Ohio. Unfortunately, the WWF appears to have eliminated that match this year.

Rude, Curt Hennig, and the Rougeaus.

Hacksaw Duggan, Ronnie Garvin, Hercules Hernandez, and Bret Hart vs. Randy Savage, Greg Valentine, Dino Bravo, and Barry Windham.

Dusty Rhodes, Brutus Beefcake, Tito Santana, and Terry Taylor vs. Big Bossman, Akeem, The Honky Tonk Man, and Rick Martel.

Two quick observations:

- For the second straight year, there's no women's match. It was a success in 1987, but the shortage of quality female wrestlers in the WWF has made such a match impossible.

- For the first time, and this is a disappointment, there's no match pitting five tag teams against each other. The tag team match was one of the highlights of the last two Survivor Series cards. Maybe the WWF powers-that-be took a look at last year's half-filled Richfield Coliseum and the poor pay-per-view numbers and decided a change was in order. Wrong change.

The main event is interesting because it pits Hogan against Zeus for the first time since SummerSlam. The WWF has a pay-per-view event scheduled for late December that will include a

screening of *No Holds Barred*. According to insiders, the WWF had hoped Zeus and Hogan would still be at war in late December so they could make it an added attraction. But when Hogan humbled Zeus at SummerSlam, their hopes seemingly went out the window. Of course, no decision is final in the WWF. Apparently, they're hoping Zeus learned from experience.

Then we have Roberts and DiBiase on opposite sides. In August, DiBiase claimed that he caused Roberts' ruptured disc and ended his career. Roberts came back and vowed to risk his life to get DiBiase. When they clash, it's not going to be pretty.

Demolition and The Powers of Pain are on opposite sides, too. That's bad news for Demolition, which has thus far failed in its attempt to regain the World tag belts from Blanchard and Anderson. Maybe the WWF promoters decided that Ax and Smash had enough chances.

Anderson and Blanchard will be opposed by The Rockers, which sets up a classic scientific matchup. These are two of the finest teams in wrestling, and if they eventually end up battling for the tag belts, fans will be in for a real treat. Personally, I can't under-

stand why Tully and Arn are still in the WWF. I figured that by this time, they'd be starving for some of the NWA's home cooking. It's amazing what a title will do.

Ultimate Warrior and Andre are on opposite sides. Ho-hum! Ultimate has humbled Andre so many times, I'm surprised somebody hasn't outlawed these matches.

Then we come to what could be the most explosive battle. There's no end in sight to the Rude-Piper war. Piper isn't one to kiss and make up. Rude is one to kiss, but he's not exactly tight with Piper. There's one war. Then we have the U.S.-loving Bushwhackers (who knows how *that* happened!) vs. Jacques and Raymond Rougeau, who have infiltrated this country and unconvincingly claim that they love the U.S.A.

The other two matches aren't quite as intriguing, but figure to have their fair share of excitement. Dusty Rhodes is soaring through the WWF ranks, and an impressive performance on Thanksgiving Day would catapult him into the WWF elite. Santana and Martel will go at it for the umpteenth time.

Finally, there's Randy Savage. Now, if this matchup is a sign of the esteem the WWF holds him in, the "Macho Man" is in trouble. Since when is Savage in the same league as Valentine, Bravo, Windham, Duggan, Garvin, Hercules, and Bret Hart? Since now. Looks like the former World champion's main-event days are numbered.

There's a good chance that when WrestleMania VI rolls around, we'll be tracing some of its main feuds back to The Survivor Series. Titles aren't on the line. Futures are. □

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INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| 1— HULK HOGAN
WWF World champion | 4— LEX LUGER
U.S. champion | 8— RANDY SAVAGE
No. 2 contender: WWF title | 12— RICK RUDE
No. 1 contender: WWF I-C title |
| 2— RIC FLAIR
NWA World champion | 5— THE GREAT MUTA
NWA TV champion | 9— LARRY ZBYSZKO
AWA World champion | 13— DUSTY RHODES
No. 4 contender: WWF title |
| 3— ULTIMATE WARRIOR
WWF Intercontinental champion | 6— JERRY LAWLER
USWA champion | 10— DENNIS CONDREY
CWF champion | 14— LARRY CAMERON
Stampede N.American champion |
| | 7— STING
No. 1 contender: NWA TV title | 11— ERIC EMBRY
USWA Texas champion | 15— GREG GAGNE
AWA TV champion |

NWA

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1— RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN | 4— STING
260, Venice Beach, CA | 8— TOMMY RICH
248, Hendersonville, TN | 12— TOM ZENK
237, Minneapolis, MN |
| 2— LEX LUGER
268, Chicago, IL | 5— TERRY FUNK
247, Amarillo, TX | 9— MIKE ROTUNDO
245, Syracuse, NY | 13— RON SIMMONS
260, Perry, GA |
| 3— THE GREAT MUTA
245, Tokyo, Japan | 6— BRIAN PILLMAN
226, Cincinnati, OH | 10— DICK SLATER
235, Tampa, FL | 14— SID VICIOUS
319, West Memphis, AK |
| | 7— STEVE WILLIAMS
265, Norman, OK | 11— EDDIE GILBERT
222, Lexington, TN | 15— NORMAN THE LUNATIC
380, Saginaw, MI |

AWA

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| 1— LARRY ZBYSZKO
248, Pittsburgh, PA | 4— SGT. SLAUGHTER
310, Parris Island, SC | 8— AKIO SATO
238, Tokyo, Japan | 12— MIKE GEORGE
265, St. Joseph, MO |
| 2— GREG GAGNE
220, Robbinsdale, MN | 5— BARON VON RASCHKE
271, W. Berlin, Germany | 9— KOKINA MAXIMUS
340, Samoa | 13— KEN PATERA
256, Portland, OR |
| 3— DERRICK DUKES
235, Boston, MA | 6— JONNIE STEWART
242, Pacific Palisades, CA | 10— THE RUSSIAN BRUTE
285, Moscow, Russia | 14— MIKE ENOS
252, Minneapolis, MN |
| | 7— PAUL DIAMOND
230, Thunder Bay, Ontario | 11— THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER
238, parts unknown | 15— WAYNE BLOOM
266, Minneapolis, MN |

WWF

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| 1— HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA | 4— RICK RUDE
246, Robbinsdale, MN | 8— HACKSAW DUGGAN
280, Glens Falls, NY | 12— RODDY PIPER
231, Glasgow, Scotland |
| 2— ULTIMATE WARRIOR
280, Queens, NY | 5— DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX | 9— JIMMY SNUKA
250, Fiji Islands | 13— BARRY WINDHAM
263, Sweetwater, TX |
| 3— RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL | 6— BRUTUS BEEFCAKE
273, San Francisco, CA | 10— TED DIBIASE
247, Omaha, NB | 14— RON GARVIN
231, Montreal, Quebec |
| | 7— CURT HENNIG
235, Minneapolis, MN | 11— BAD NEWS BROWN
280, New York, NY | 15— TERRY TAYLOR
225, Vero Beach, FL |

MOST POPULAR

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| 1— HULK HOGAN
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular | 4— STING
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular | 8— RODDY PIPER
Last month: No. 8 Most Popular | 12— TERRY TAYLOR
Last month: No. 12 Most Popular |
| 2— RIC FLAIR
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular | 5— BRUTUS BEEFCAKE
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular | 9— HACKSAW DUGGAN
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular | 13— BRIAN PILLMAN
Last month: No. 15 Most Popular |
| 3— THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular | 6— RICK STEINER
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular | 10— ERIC EMBRY
Last month: No. 10 Most Popular | 14— WENDELL COOLEY
Last month: No. 13 Most Popular |
| | 7— DUSTY RHODES
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular | 11— KERRY VON ERICH
Last month: No. 11 Most Popular | 15— SGT. SLAUGHTER
Last month: No. 14 Most Popular |

MOST HATED

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| 1— TERRY FUNK
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated | 4— LEX LUGER
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated | 8— P.Y. CHU-HI
Last month: unrated | 12— TARAS BULBA
Last month: No. 12 Most Hated |
| 2— RANDY SAVAGE
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated | 5— THE GREAT MUTA
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated | 9— JERRY LAWLER
Last month: No. 9 Most Hated | 13— LARRY CAMERON
Last month: No. 13 Most Hated |
| 3— RICK RUDE
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated | 6— ANDRE THE GIANT
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated | 10— DENNIS CONDREY
Last month: No. 10 Most Hated | 14— SCOTTY THE BODY
Last month: No. 14 Most Hated |
| | 7— LARRY ZBYSZKO
Last month: No. 7 Most Hated | 11— GREG VALENTINE
Last month: No. 11 Most Hated | 15— COL. DeBEERS
Last month: No. 15 Most Hated |

TAG TEAMS

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1— MICHAEL HAYES & JIM GARVIN
NWA World tag team champions | 6— THE BUSHWHACKERS
No. 3 contenders: WWF tag team title | 11— JEFF JARRETT & MATT BORNE
No. 1 contenders: USWA tag team title |
| 2— TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON
WWF World tag team champions | 7— THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS
No. 3 contenders: NWA tag team title | 12— MARK STARR & CHRIS CHAMPION
No. 1 contenders: CWA tag team title |
| 3— THE ROAD WARRIORS
No. 1 contenders: NWA tag team title | 8— MIKE ENOS & WAYNE BLOOM
No. 1 contenders: AWA tag team title | 13— THE ROCKERS
No. 4 contenders: WWF tag team title |
| 4— DEMOLITION
No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title | 9— THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS
CWA tag team champions | 14— SUMO HARA & BENKAI SASAKI
Stampede International tag team champions |
| 5— THE SKYSCRAPERS
No. 2 contenders: NWA tag team title | 10— JIMMY GOLDEN & BRIAN LEE
CWF tag team champions | 15— THE DYNAMIC DUDES
No. 4 contenders: NWA tag team title |

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place .

For period ended September 29, 1989

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

ALL-CALIFORNIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING CHAMPION: DON MURACO

(June 30, 1989; from Chavo Guerrero; Delmar, CA)

ALL-CALIFORNIA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

PETER MAIVIA JR. & MANDO GUERRERO

(September 24, 1988; from The Lords of Discipline; Victorville, CA)

ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

DAN KROFFAT & DOUG FURNAS

(June 6, 1989; from Toshiaki Kawada & Sampson Fuyuki; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: GENICHIRO TENRYU

(June 6, 1989; from Jumbo Tsuruta; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

STAN HANSEN & TERRY GORDY

(December 16, 1988; tournament final over Genichiro Tenryu & Toshiaki Kawada; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JOE MALENKO

(July 1, 1989; from Mitsuo Momota; Omiya, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: GENICHIRO TENRYU

(June 6, 1989; from Jumbo Tsuruta; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(Most recently held by Lioness Asuka)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MIKA KOMATSU

(July 10, 1988; from Yumi Ogura; Edmonton, Alberta, Canada)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

YUMIKO HOTTA & MITSUKO NISHIWAKI

(July 18, 1989; from Akira Hokuto & Shizuka Minami; Tokyo, Japan)

AWA TV CHAMPION: GREG GAGNE

(December 13, 1988; from Ron Garvin; Chicago, IL)

AWA WORLD CHAMPION: LARRY ZBYSZKO

(February 7, 1989; battle royal victory to fill vacant title; St. Paul, MN)

AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE HELD UP

(Most recently held by Ken Patera & Brad Rheingans)

AWA WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER

(November 26, 1988; from Madusa Miceli; Bloomington, MN)

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH CHAMPION: GAMA SINGH

(August 4, 1989; from Chris Benoit; Calgary, Alberta)

CONTINENTAL HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DENNIS CONDREY

(July 22, 1989; from Tom Prichard; Dothan, AL)

CONTINENTAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JIMMY GOLDEN & BRIAN LEE

(August 26, 1989; from Steve Armstrong & Tracy Smothers; Dothan, AL)

CWA CHAMPION: TITLE HELD UP

(Most recently held by Texas Dirt)

* CWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS

(September 11, 1989; from Chris Champion & Mark Starr; Memphis, TN)

ICW CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS

(February 11, 1989; from Joe Savoldi; Presque Isle, ME)

ICW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JOE SAVOLDI & VIC STEAMBOAT

(July 1, 1989; from Phil Apollo & Eric Sbraccia; Marlboro, MA)

IWGP CHAMPION: BIG VAN VADER

(August 10, 1989; from Riki Choshu; Tokyo, Japan)

* IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

MASSA SAITO & SHINYA HASHIMOTO RIKI CHOSHU & TAKAYUKI IIZUKI

(September 20, 1989; from Riki Choshu & Takayuki Iizuki; Osaka, Japan)

IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: NAOKI SANO

(August 10, 1989; from Jushin Riger; Tokyo, Japan)

* NWA TV CHAMPION: THE GREAT MUTA

(September 3, 1989; defeated Sting for held up title; Atlanta, GA)

NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR

(May 7, 1989; from Rick Steamboat; Nashville, TN)

NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MICHAEL HAYES & JIM GARVIN

(June 14, 1989; tournament final over Bobby Eaton & Stan Lane; Ft. Bragg, NC)

* PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: SCOTTY THE BODY

(September 2, 1989; tournament final over Carl Styles; Portland, OR)

* PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: REX KING & STEVE DOLL

(September 16, 1989; for held up title vs Scotty the Body & The Grappler; Portland, OR)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: GENICHIRO TENRYU

(June 6, 1989; from Jumbo Tsuruta; Tokyo, Japan)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INT'L TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

JUMBO TSURUTA & YOSHIKI YATSU

(July 22, 1989; from Stan Hansen & Genichiro Tenryu; Kanazawa, Japan)

PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING FROM FLORIDA CHAMPION: STEVE KEIRN

(July 9, 1989; from Kendall Windham; Orlando, FL)

PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING FROM FLORIDA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

THE NASTY BOYS

(August 15, 1989; from Jim Backlund & Brett Sawyer; Tampa, FL)

STAMPEDE NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: LARRY CAMERON

(April 28, 1989; from Davey Boy Smith; Calgary, Alberta)

STAMPEDE INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

SUMO HARA & BENKAI SASAKI

(August 18, 1989; from Bob & Kerry Brown; Calgary, Alberta)

U.S. CHAMPION: LEX LUGER

(May 22, 1989; from Michael Hayes; Bluefield, WV)

U.S.W.A. CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER

(December 13, 1988; from Kerry Von Erich; Chicago, IL)

U.S.W.A. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE HELD UP

(Most recently held by Sheik Braddock & Ron Starr)

U.S.W.A. TEXAS CHAMPION: ERIC EMBRY

(August 18, 1989; from P.Y. Chu-Hi; Dallas, TX)

WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: RIP ROGERS

(May 14, 1989; from TNT; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

MIGUEL PEREZ JR. & HURRICANE CASTILLO JR.

(July 22, 1989; from Bret & Bart Batten; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SUPER MEDIC

(July 29, 1989; from Chicky Starr; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

WWC NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: INVADER I

(April 15, 1989; from Abdullah the Butcher; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: IVAN KOLOFF

(July 15, 1989; from Invader I; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RIP ROGERS & ABUGHDADIEN

(July 30, 1989; from Hurricane Castillo Jr. & Miguel Perez Jr.; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: STEVE STRONG

(May 27, 1989; from Carlos Colon; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER

(July 28, 1987; from Monster Ripper; Trinidad, West Indies)

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: ULTIMATE WARRIOR

(August 28, 1989; from Rick Rude; East Rutherford, NJ)

WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN

(April 2, 1989; from Randy Savage; Atlantic City, NJ)

WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON

(July 18, 1989; from Demolition; Worcester, MA)

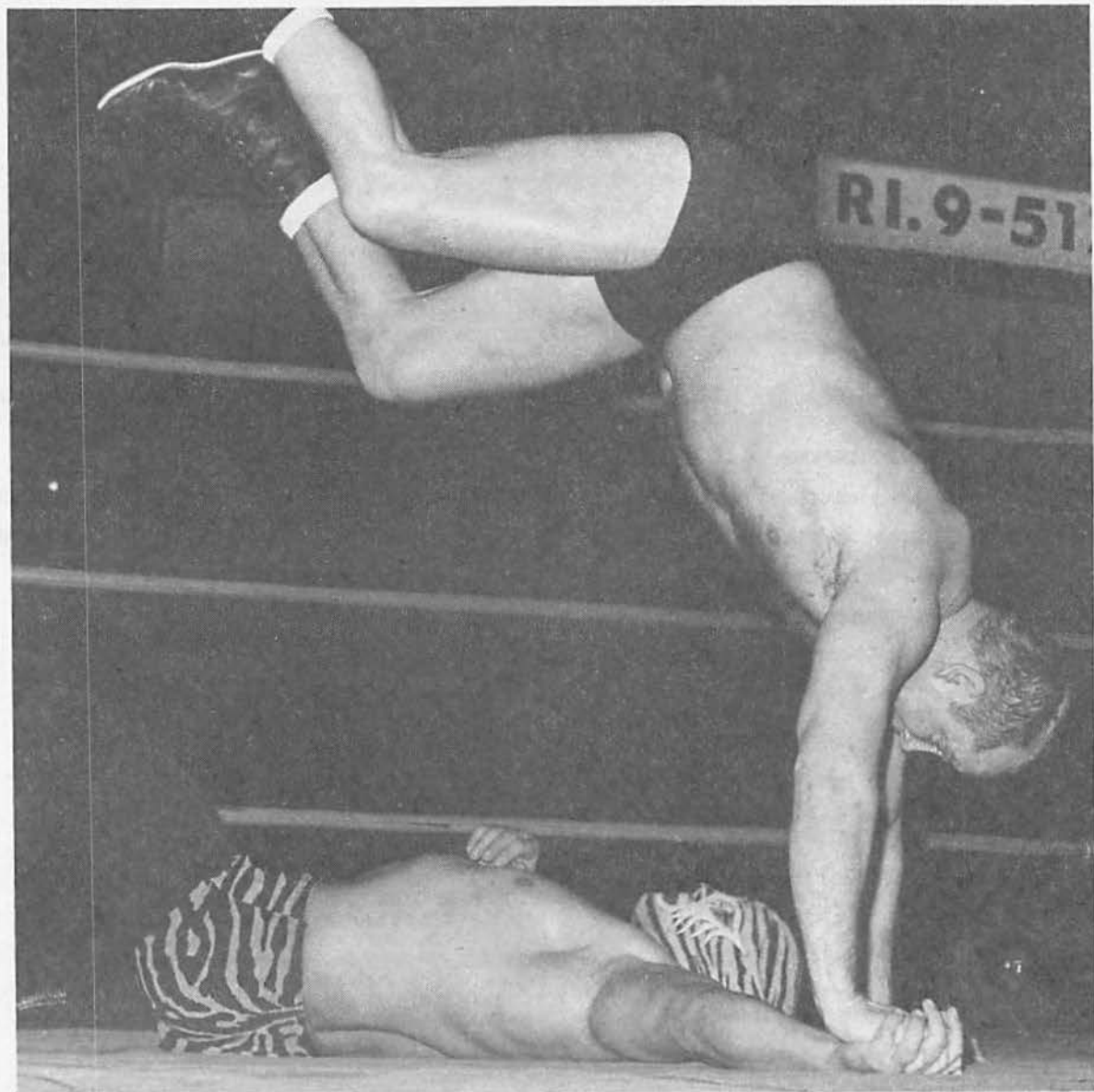
WWF WOMEN'S CHAMPION: ROCKIN' ROBIN

(October 7, 1988; from Sherri Martel; Paris, France)

Blast From The Past

This Month In Wrestling History

"A Scientific Symphony"



DORY FUNK JR. vs. MIL MASCARAS

November 21, 1969

If there ever was a wrestler who was the scientific equal of former NWA World champion Dory Funk Jr., it would have to be high-flying Mexican star Mil Mascaras. This historic bout would be the first time these two legends would face each other, and the 10,000 fans who packed the Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles were treated to a stunning display of scientific brilliance. After 30 minutes of non-stop action, the bell sounded to mark a curfew draw. But this was a match which would never be forgotten by Funk, who called it "the toughest defense of my title reign."

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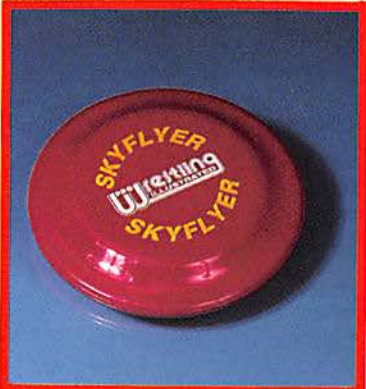
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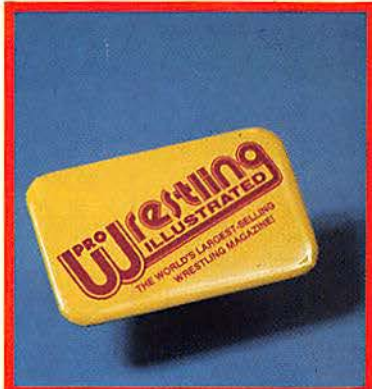
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PWI SKYFLYER



PWI BUMPER STICKER



PWI BUTTON



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